

ΥΣΤΕΡΑΙ ΦΡΟΝΤΙΔΕΣ.

OR, THE

Last THOUGHTS

OF

Dr. W H I T B Y.

CONTAINING HIS

Correction of several Passages  
in his Commentary on the  
NEW TESTAMENT.

To which are added,

Five DISCOURSES.

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*Published by his express ORDER.*

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# THE PREFACE.



*It is rightly and truly observed by Justin Martyr (a) in the Beginning of his Exhortation to the Greeks;*  
*' That an exact Scrutiny into things*  
*' doth often produce Conviction;*  
*' that those things which we once*  
*' judged to be right, are, after a*  
*' more diligent Enquiry into Truth;*  
*' found to be far otherwise.*

*And truly I am not ashamed to say, This is my very Case. For when I wrote my Commentaries on the New Testament, I went on (too hastily I own) in the common beaten Road of other reputed Orthodox Divines: Conceiving, first, that the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, in one complex Notion, were one and the same God, by Virtue of the same individual Essence communicated from the Father. This confused Notion I am now fully convinced by the Arguments I have offered here, and in the second Part of my Reply to Dr. Waterland, to be a thing impossible,*

(a) Orat. Cohort. ad Græcos. p. 1.



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and full of gross Absurdities, and Contradictions. And then, as a natural Consequence from this Doctrine, I (secondly) concluded that those Divine Persons differed only in *τρόπος υπάρξεως*, in the manner of their Existence. And yet what that can signifie in the Son, according to this Doctrine, it will not, I think, be very easy intelligibly to declare.

That the Difference can be only Modal, even Dr. South hath fully demonstrated: And that this was the Opinion generally received from the fourth Century, may be seen in the close of my first Part to Dr. Waterland. And yet the Right Reverend Bishop Bull (a) positively affirms, 'That this is rank Sabellianism in these Words, 'A Person can't be conceived without Essence, unless you make a Person in Divine Matters 'to be nothing else but a mere Mode of Existence, 'which is manifest Sabellianism.' And the judicious Dr. Cudworth, (b) tells us, 'That the Orthodox 'Anti-Arian Fathers did all of them zealously condemn Sabellianism, the Doctrine whereof is no other but this, That there is but one Hypostasis, or 'single individual Essence of the Father, Son, and 'Holy Ghost; and consequently that they were indeed 'but three Names, or Notions, or Modes, of one 'and the self-same thing. Whence such Absurdities 'as these would follow, That the Father's begetting 'the Son was nothing but a Name, Notion, or 'Mode of one Deity begetting another; or else the 'same Deity under one Notion begetting it self under 'another Notion. And when again the Son, or 'Word is said to be incarnate, and to have suffered 'Death for us upon the Cross, that it was nothing 'but

(a) Addo ego, Personam sine Essentiâ concipi non posse, nisi statueris Personam in Divinis nihil aliud esse quam merum *τρόπον υπάρξεως*. quod plane Sabellianum, l. 4. p. 439.

(b) Cud. System, ch. 4. p. 605.

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\* but a mere logical Notion, or Mode of the Deity  
 \* under one particular Notion or Mode only.

That the Doctrine of the Sabellians was exactly the same with that of those who stile themselves the Orthodox, asserting that the Father, and the Son, are numerically one and the same God, is evident from the Words of Athanasius (a) and Epiphanius ; both (b) testifying, That to say the Father and the Son were μονοῦσις or ταυτοῦσις, of one and the same Substance was Sabellianism. And surely, of Consequence to contend that this is the Doctrine of the Church of England, is to dishonour our Church, and in Effect to charge her with that Heresy, which was exploded with Scorn by the whole Church of Christ, from the third to this present Century.

In a Word, all other Notions of the Word Person, besides the plain and obvious one, signifying a real and intelligent Agent, have been already so excellently baffled and learnedly confuted \* that I own I am not able to resist the shining Evidence of Truth : Nor am I ashamed to confess my former Mistakes and Errors in these Matters after such strong and irresistible Conviction, seeing, Humanum est errare, all Men are liable to Error. And as upon this Principle, I cannot but think it the most gross Hypocrisy, after such Conviction, to persist in a Mistake ; so without Question, it is the greatest Abuse of Humility and free Thinking, to attribute such open and ingenuous Acknowledgements to a wavering Judgment, or levity of Mind.

Neither

(a) 'Οὐτὶ ὅτι υἱὸ πατέρα φρονοῦμεν ὡς οἱ Σαβιλλιανοὶ μονοῦσις.  
 Expos. Fidei p. 241.

(b) Καὶ οὐ λέγομεν ταυτοῦσις, ἵνα μὴ ἡ λέξις ὡς τισι λεγομένη  
 Σαβιλλίῳ ἀπεικασθῇ. Anomoeorum Heresis, 76. N. 7.

\* See Dr. Clarke, Mr. Jackson, and others.



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Neither are there wanting Examples of good and great Men amongst the Antients to bear me out in this Matter. St. Cyprian (a) frankly confesses, in his Epistle to Antonianus, that he was formerly in the rigid Opinion of Tertullian, that the Peace of the Church was never to be given to Adulterers, to Murderers, and Idolaters; and having changed his Opinion, he apologizes for it by saying, *‘ Mea apud te & Persona & Causa purganda est, ne me aliquis existimet a proposito meo leviter decessisse; & cum Evangelicum Vigorem primo & inter initia defendere, postmodum videar animum meum a Disciplina & Censura priore flexisse. And this honest procedure which he practised himself, he also approved in others, saying, (b) Non quia semel erratum est, ideo semper errandum esse, cum magis sapientibus & Deum timentibus congruat, patefactæ veritati libenter & incunctanter obsequi, quam pertinaciter, atque obstinatè reluctari; That a Man’s having once erred, is not a Reason why he should continue to do so, for that it becomes wise Men, and such as fear God, to yield freely and readily to Truth, whenever made known to them, rather than to persist obstinately in rejecting it.*

St. Austin was not more renowned for any of his Works, than for his two Books of Retractations, in which he confesseth all the Errors he had committed in all his other Writings.

And this my Retractation, or Change of my Opinion, after all my former Endeavours to assert and establish a contrary Doctrine, deserves the more to be considered, because it proceeds (and indeed can proceed) from me for no other Reason, but purely from the  
strong

(a) Epist. 55.

(b) Epist. 73. Edit. Oxon. p. 208.

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*strong and irresistible Convictions, which are now upon me, that I was mistaken.*

*Nothing, I say, but the love of Truth can be supposed to extort such a Retraction from me, who having already lived so long beyond the common Period of Life, can have nothing else to do but to prepare for my great Change; and in order thereunto to make my Peace with God, and my own Conscience before I die. To this purpose I solemnly appeal to the Searcher of Hearts, and call God to Witness, whether I have hastily, or rashly departed from the common Opinion; or rather, whether I have not deliberately and calmly weighed the Arguments on both Sides drawn from Scripture and Antiquity?*

*As I have no Views for this World; so it cannot be imagined, that the Motives drawn from Interest, Ambition, or secular Glory, can have any Place with me. Or if I had, neither can it be imagined that I would choose to dissent from the received Opinion, the Maintainers whereof are they who grasp Honours and Preferments, and think they have the best Title to those Advantages.*

*So that upon the whole, if I have erred in changing my Opinion, I desire it may be observed, that my Error hath neither Prejudice, nor secular Views to support it; and that my Mistake (if such it will be reputed) hath been all along attended with constant Prayers to the Throne of Grace, and what hath always appeared to me to be the strongest Reason, and most undeniable Evidence.*

*And even yet, if any will be so kind, as in the Spirit of Meekness, to answer the Arguments I have produced to justify my Change, if it please God to give me the same Degree of Health, and Soundness of Mind, which, by his Blessing and Goodness, I now enjoy, I promise sincerely to consider them, and to act suitably*



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to the Strength of the Argument ; but if any such Answer is attempted with angry Invectives, and haughty Sophistry, aiming to be wise above what is Written, I must say, *μὴ μᾶλλον ὡς περ ἐστὶν*, i. e. I must remain in my present Sentiments ; having in this short Treatise seriously considered all that I had said in my Commentary to the contrary, and fully answered the most considerable Places I had then produced for Confirmation of the Doctrines I there too hastily endeavoured to establish.

I conclude with those Words of St. Austin : *Errare possum, hæreticus esse nolo*, that is, I may err, but I will not be an Heretick : As yet I must be in St. Paul's Sense, \* if I would act against the Dictates, and strong Convictions of my Conscience. He having expressly said, That a Heretick is one who is *ἑαυτοῦ κατέκρινται*, condemned in his own Conscience for what he doth assert. Now that the God of Truth would give to me, and all others, a right Understanding in all things, is the Prayer of,

Your Friend,

and

Humble Servant,

Daniel Whitby.

\* Titus, 3. 10, 11.



# Dr. *WHITBY's* LAST THOUGHTS.

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## S E C T. I.



It is observable from Scripture, and from the *Fathers* of the first three Centuries, that whatsoever our blessed Lord is said to *have*, as to his Nature, or his Attributes, he is said to have by the *Donation* of the Father ; or, as *receiv'd* from the Father : *v.g.* He has his *Life* from the Father ; for, as he himself saith, *As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father, so he that eateth me shall live by me*, Joh. vi. §7, which cannot be understood of his Resurrection, since it was spoken in the present Tense ; For he  
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doth



## 2 Dr. Whitby's last Thoughts.

doth not say, I *shall* live, but, I *live*. He hath his Power to raise the Dead from him, *John* v. 25, 26. For our Lord proves, *that the Dead shall hear the Voice of the Son of Man, and live*; because, *as the Father hath Life in himself, so hath he given to the Son to have Life in himself*. And he hath also given him Power to judge those whom he should thus raise: For, saith he, *The Father judgeth no Man, but hath committed all Judgment to the Son, sent by him*. *Joh. v. 22, 24. He hath given him also Power over all Flesh, to give to them whom God hath given him eternal Life, Joh. xvii. 2. He gave him all Power in Heaven and in Earth, Matth. xxviii. 18.*

Our Saviour also saith, *all that the Father hath is mine, Joh. xv. 16. Because the Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand, Joh. iii. 35. He is Lord of All, Acts x. 36. Because God made him both Lord and Christ, Acts ii. 36. as St. Peter infers from God's raising him from the Dead: Him, saith St. Paul, hath God appointed Heir of all Things, Heb. i. 2. and hath given him to be Head over all things to the Church, Eph. i. 22. and Phil. ii. 9. He hath exalted him, and given him a Name which is above every Name: according to these Words of the Psalmist, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my Right Hand until I make thine Enemies thy Footstool, Ps. cx. 1. In him dwelleth all the fulness of*

## Dr. Whitby's last Thoughts. 3

of the Godhead bodily, Col. ii. 9. *Because it pleased the Father, that in him all fulness should dwell*, Col. i. 19. Agreeably to these Scriptures, the *Primitive Fathers* give us an Account of Christ's Power and Dominion as derived from the supreme God and Father of all Things : As you may see in the *Agreement* of the Fathers with these Sentiments. Sect. 3.

Secondly, all his Offices are plainly *dependent on, relating to, or received from* the Father. The very Nature of his *Prophetick* Office requires this, a *Prophet* being one who is sent from God, and speaketh in his Name. Whence he declares, during the Execution of that Office, that, *he spake not of himself; but as the Father that sent him had given him a Command, so he spake*, Joh. xii. 49.

His *Priestly* Office doth also necessarily imply a Relation to him whom he was to atone and reconcile by the Merits of his Sufferings: which Sufferings, say the *Scriptures*, were undergone to reconcile us to God; *we being reconciled by the Death of his Son*, Rom. v. 9. Which by the way, shews that 'tis unreasonable, and absurd to say it was the same *individual* Godhead that made Satisfaction to the offended Person; for then, both being the same individual God, he must make Satisfaction to himself: Whereas the Scripture doth inform us, *that there is one Mediator between God and Man*. From whence Euse-



#### 4 Dr. Whitby's last Thoughts.

*bius* (a) infers that he is of a middle Nature betwixt God and Man.

As for his *Regal* Office, the Scripture plainly testifies, that God hath given him *Authority to execute Judgment, because he is the Son of Man*, Joh. v. 26. And the Apostle tells us, *that God shall judge the World by Jesus Christ*. Rom. ii. 16. His Power to confound all his Enemies, and those of the Church, is from that God, who said unto him, *Sit thou on my Right Hand, till I make thine Enemies thy Footstool*. His Power to give eternal Life to his faithfull Servants at the last Day, is given him of his Father, Joh. xvii. 2. And when he hath thus crowned his Servants, and put his Enemies under his Feet, then is he to give up the Kingdom to God the Father, *that God may be all in all*, 1 Cor. xv. 28. The mighty Works he did, were done by the Father, as the *Baptist* testifies in these Words, Joh. iii. 34. *For he whom God hath sent, speaketh the Words of God; for God giveth not the Spirit by Measure unto him. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand*. He healed the Sick that came unto him, *because the Power of God was present to heal them*, Luke v. 17. He himself saith, *that the Works which my Father hath given me [Power] to do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me*, Joh.

V.

(a) L. 1. Cont. Marc. p. 8,

v. 36 He also confesseth that he cast out Devils *by the Finger of God*, Luke xi. 20. that he did these Works *by the Spirit of God*, Matth. xii. 18. And again, *The Father*, saith he, *that dwelleth in me, he doth the Works*, Joh. xiv. 10. That he hath all his Attributes, also *derived from the Father*, is generally acknowledged even by those who stile themselves the *Orthodox*. And of necessity it must be so, since all Properties flow from the Essence, and in reality are only the Essence partially considered, or with relation to such Powers. So that when the *individual* Essence is *one* and the *same*, the Actions and Powers flowing from that Essence, must be the *same*. And hence they constantly assert, that the Will, Power, and Wisdom, (a) of the whole Trinity, is one and the same; and that what one wills, does, and knows, they all do, will, and know, by Virtue of this Unity of Essence.

The Primitive Fathers of the first three Centuries do also generally agree, that the Son receiv'd his Power from the Father, as it hath been observed already. And particularly *Hippolitus*, (b) *that his Knowledge was given him by the Father*: to which the *Orthodox* are forced to say, that he receiv'd this Power, this Dominion, and these Attributes, by receiving the same individual Essence with the Father; B 3 which

(a) Dr. W——d. p. 337.

(b) Πᾶσαι τῇ ἐκείνου παρὰ τῷ πατρὶ λαβάν. *Contra Noetium*. p. 2.



## 6 Dr. Whitby's last Thoughts.

which yet is a Thing impossible in it self ; since an individual Essence cannot be communicated, for that very Reason, because it is an Individual, *i. e.* one and no more. Nor can three Essences be one and no more, by being *connexè & conjunctè* (as *Tertullian's Thecla*, or the *Spirit of Montanus* taught him) but only three Essences joined, and connected to one another.

Moreover hence it must follow, that the same numerical Essence must be *Self-existent*, and *not* Self-existent, *communicated*, and yet *incommunicable*, (as a Self-existing Essence must necessarily be) *generated*, and *ungenerated*, *derived*, and *underived* : It being certain that the Father's Essence is self-existing, uncommunicated, and underived ; and that the Essence of the Son is not so. So that it must be an exprefs Contradiction to predicate these opposite and contradictory Assertions of the same *numerical* Essence. And hence it will follow, that this God must be *Deus de Deo*, and yet, *Deus de Nullo* ; or, which is the same Thing, a self-existing Being, as he necessarily is in the Father, and yet he must communicate himself to another ; who yet only is *another*, by having that Essence communicated to him ; and he must communicate himself unto another, by continuing invariably the same that he was before. To omit many other like Absurdities, Accordingly a  
learned

*Dr. Whitby's last Thoughts.* 7

learned Author (a) very well observes, ' that  
' as this Doctrine would deprive both the Son,  
' and Holy Ghost of any proper Essence and  
' Attributes of their own; so would it follow  
' that they are only Names. ' For the same  
Reason, neither can an individual Power be  
communicated, as the same Author proves in  
these Words, ' The Reason why the indivi-  
' dual Knowledge, or Power of God cannot  
' be communicated, any more than his indivi-  
' dual Existence, is, because they are indivi-  
' dual, and nothing that is individual can e-  
' ver be communicated from one thing to  
' another. ' *Ans. to Remarks, &c.* p. 230.

Thirdly, The Essence of the Father being  
essentially an intelligent, and active Essence,  
and so a personal Essence, it is evident, it can-  
not be communicated, unless a personal Essence  
be communicated; and then the Person to  
whom it is communicated must be two Per-  
sons. From hence arise these Corollaries.

*First*, that the Son is a real and distinct Per-  
son, from the supreme God. And also,

*Secondly*, that he is not of one and the  
same individual Essence with him.

*First, He is a real Person distinguished  
from him.* For Christ every where declares  
himself not to be the Father, but to come  
forth from him, to speak by his Authority  
and Commission, to do nothing of himself,

B 4

but

(a) Modest Plea continued, *Ans. to Query 23.* p. 50.



## 8 Dr. Whitby's last Thoughts.

but every Thing by the Power of the Father ; nothing to his own, but every Thing to his Father's Glory.

And yet he speaks these Things of himself considered as coming down from Heaven ; and with Pronouns personal ; and sometimes in Opposition to the whole Person of the Father, as when he saith, *He that believeth in me, believeth not in me, but in him that sent me*, John xii. 44.

*Secondly, That he is not of the same individual, or numerical Essence with God the Father, is evident from these Considerations.*

*First*, that where the numerical Essence is one and the same, the Will and Actions of that Essence must be one and the same. And where the Will and Actions are numerically distinct and diverse, there the individual Essence must also be distinct and different. And this *Damascen* (a) declares to be the Doctrine of the Holy Fathers.

Hence it demonstratively follows, that if the Essence of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be numerically one and the same, the Will, and all the other Actions of these three must be numerically one and the same : So that what the Father wills, and does, the Son and Holy Ghost must will, and do, also.

Now

(a) Οἱ Πατέρες οἱ ἄγιοι ἔφασαν, ὅτι ἡ οὐσία μία, τῶν καὶ ἐν-  
νοια μία, καὶ ὁ Ἀλόγοτος ἡ οὐσία, τῶν Ἀλόγοτος καὶ ἡ ἐννοια.  
c. 15. de Orthod. Fide, l. 3. p. 331. & c. 19. p. 255.

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Now to shew the inconsistency of this with the plain Declarations of *Holy Scripture*, let it be considered,

*First*, That if the Essence of the Son (for Instance) is one and the same with that of God the Father, his Will must of necessity be one and the same with that of God the Father. And what the Father wills, the Son must of necessity will also; that is, the Will of the Father must of necessity be his Will too. But this is directly inconsistent with these Words of Christ, *Joh. v. 20. I seek not mine own Will, but the Will of the Father which sent me.* (a) And *ch. vi. 38. I came down from Heaven, not that I might do mine own Will, but the Will of him that sent me.* And *ch. iv. 34. My Meat is, that I may do the Will of him that sent me; and that I may finish his Work.* For can the numerical Essence send it self, and be sent by it self, and become his own Legate? Neither can he that hath the same numerical Will with the Father, come down from Heaven not to do his own Will. And here note, that all this is spoken of the Will of him that came down from Heaven, and therefore of the Divine Will of the Son.

### *Secondly,*

(a) Nec suam, sed Patris perfecit voluntatem, Tertul. ad Prax. c. 8.

Ἐπεὶ οὖν ἱαυτὸν ὁ Πατὴρ δέκνεται ἀλλ' ὁ υἱὸς τὸ θελημα τοῦ πατρὸς, ἀλλὰ τὸ θελημα ὁ πέμψαντός μου, καὶ ἐν τῷ ἔργῳ κατεδείχθη θῆναι οὐκ ἵνα ποιῇ τὸ θελημα ἑαυτοῦ ἀλλὰ τοῦ πέμψαντός αὐτόν.  
*Euseb. Eccles. Theol. l. 2. c. 7. p. 110.*



10 *Dr. Whitby's last Thoughts.*

*Secondly*, where the individual Essence is one and the same, the Actions of that Essence must be one and the same: So that what is done by the Father, must of Necessity be done by the same individual Essence of the Son, provided both have one Essence. And yet this also is plainly inconsistent with the Words of Christ, and with the Declarations of Holy Scripture. As when Christ saith, *My Doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me*, John vii. 16. Again, chap. xii. 49, 50. *The Father which sent me, he gave me a Commandment what I should say, and what I should speak: As the Father hath given me a Commandment, so I speak.*

(a) Now can the same individual Essence send, and command it self? Or could our Lord absolutely deny that Doctrine to be his, which proceeded from his own numerical Essence? If *I and the Father are one*, signifie one in Essence, it must signifie one in Action also; and so what one sends, the other must send; what one commands, the other must also Command; and the Doctrine which one teacheth, must be taught by the other also.

Again,

(a) Alium dicam oportet, ex necessitate sensûs eum qui jubet, & eum qui facit. Nam nec juberet, si ipse faceret dum jubetet fieri per eum. Tamen jubebat haud sibi jussurus, si unus esset; aut sine jussu facturus, quia non expectasset ut sibi juberet. *Tertull. adv. Prax. c. 12. & 9.* Bonum placitum patris filius perfecit, mittit enim Pater, mittitur & venit *Filius. Iren. l. 4. c. 14. ὁ δὲ ἐνταλλόμενος ὑπὸ τοῦ ἐνταλλεῖται τῷ.* *Conf. Antioch. Sex Epif. Concil Tom. 1. Ed. Lab. p. 84.*

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Again. *The Works*, saith he, *which I do in my Father's Name*, that is, by his Authority, *and the Work which my Father hath given me [Power] to do, they bear witness of me*, Joh. v. 36. But how can one of the same individual Essence with the Father act in *his* Name, and not in his *own* also? Again, *As the Father hath taught me, so I speak.* (a) Joh. viii. 28. And, *the Father hath not left me alone, for I do always the Things that are most pleasing to him.* Now can one of the same numerical Essence with the Father be taught by another, and not by himself? Or can he do those Things which are pleasing to another, and not to himself? In a word, if the Essence of the Father and Son be one and the same, and consequently the Actions flowing from that Essence be one and the same in both; hence it demonstratively follows, that if to beget, and to communicate an Essence, be to act, the Son must as truly beget and communicate his Essence to himself, as the Father doth, and so must be both Father and Son to himself.

*Thirdly*, One individual Essence can give nothing to, and receive nothing from it self, because it can give nothing but what it hath already, and therefore cannot receive by way of Gift. And this in an All-perfect and Self-sufficient Being is the more certain, because it is incapable of any Accession to its absolute Perfection.

If

(a) Vide Euseb. de Eccles. Theol. l. i. c. 20. p. 90.



## 12 Dr. Whitby's last Thoughts.

If then God the Son hath the same numerical Essence which the Father hath, he could not properly and truly say, *Matth. xi. 17.* (a) *All things are delivered to me by my Father.* For could the Father either give or reveal any thing to his own Essence, which it had not, or knew not, before? And again, *Matth. xxviii. 18.* *All Power is given to me in Heaven and Earth:* seeing the same Essence must have always the same Power. *The Father, saith Christ, loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hands, Joh. iii. 35.* even into the hands of that Son who came down from Heaven, hath he given all things; not by Communication of his own numerical Essence to him, but from that Affection which he bore to him. So again, *Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he came down from Heaven, washed the Disciples Feet, Joh. xiii. 3.* And yet if he that came down from Heaven had the same numerical Essence with the Father, he must give all Things into his own hands, or give it to him who always had it. Again, *Joh. v. 22.* *The Father judgeth no Man, but hath committed all Judgment to the Son, even to that Son which he had sent down from Heaven,*

(a) Τὸ ὅτι παρ' ἑτέρου λαμβάνει τί, ἕτερον παρὰ τὴν διδόντα νοῦται.  
Euseb. Eccles. Theol. l. 3. c. 4. p. 169. πῶς ὁ ἀχώριστος ὁ τοῦ Θεοῦ  
ἑαυτοῦ ἕλεγε ἀπιστάσαι. *ibid.* l. 1. c. 20. p. 90. & plenius, l. 2.  
c. 7. p. 110. Nam nec qui accipit unus est cum dante, nec  
qui traditum accipit equalis est ei qui tradidit. Opus imperf. in  
Matth. p. 97.

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Heaven, V. 23. and therefore to him who had a Divine Nature, by which alone he could be enabled to execute that Judgment. And chap. xvii. 2, *Thou (Father, V. 1.) hast given him (thy Son, ibid.) Power over all Flesh, that he may give eternal Life to all that thou hast given him.* An earthly Parent may give the Power to his Son to give Gratuities to his Servants committed to him, because he is in Essence, numerically distinct from him: But were they numerically one in Essence, the Power of both must be one; and what was given, must be given by both.

*Lastly, Christ answers thus to the Sons of Zebedee, (a) Matth. xx. 25. To sit on my Right Hand, and on my Left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.* And yet where the Essence is one and the same, the Gift must proceed from one and the same Essence in both, and be prepared for them, to whom it is given by both.

*Fourthly, The same numerical Essence cannot send it self; or be sent from, and return to its self. And yet how frequently doth our Lord inform us that the Father had sent him into the World, and, that he came forth from the Father? And came into the World? To*  
select

(a) Inter cujus non est, & inter cujus est, nec Persona una est, nec æqualis Potestas. Si Pater & Filius unus est, certè aut potest Filius, aut non potest Pater. Opus imperf. in *Math. Ho. 53. p. 128.*



## 14 Dr. Whitby's last Thoughts.

select a few of his Sayings : *He that receiveth you, receiveth me ; and he that receiveth me, receiveth him that sent me, Matth. x. 40. Joh. xiii. 20. He that despiseth you, despiseth me ; and he that despiseth me, despiseth him that sent me.* In which Words there seems to be a plain Gradation from the lesser to the greater. *He that receiveth me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me, Mar. ix. 37. He that believeth in me, believeth not in me, but in him that sent me, Joh. xii. 14.* Could this Negation be truly spoken by one and the same God with him that sent him ? Is not the import of these Words plainly this ? He receiveth, or believeth, not only in me his Messenger, speaking in his Name, but in that God who sent me on his Message ? Is not this his own interpretation, when he saith, *The Word which you hear, is not mine, but the Father's which sent me, Joh. xiv. 24 ?* And is not this the import of the like Phrases used both in the Old and New Testament ? As when 'tis said, *Exod. xvi. 8. Your Murmurings, are not against us, but against the Lord.* And, *1 Sam. viii. 7. They have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, Thess. iv. 3. He that despiseth our Commandment, despiseth not Man, but God.* Again, chap. viii. 17, 18. Christ speaketh thus ; *In your Law it is written, the Testimony of two Men is true ; I am one that bear witness of my self, and the Father that sent me, beareth witness of me.* Where

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Where observe, that the Doctrine of the numerical Unity of the Father and the Son in Essence and in Actions, destroys Christ's Argument, and turns it into a Paralogism; for upon this Supposition the Pharisees might have answered, that the Testimony of two Men, might well be deem'd the Testimony of two Witnesses, because they were as to Nature numerically different, and their Testimony contained two different Actions, the Testimony of one being not the Testimony of the other; whereas the Testimony of the Father and Son, were only the same numerical Action of them both; and so could not properly be said to be two Testimonies. And Joh. x. 37. *(a) Say you of him whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the World, thou blasphemest, because I said I am the Son of God?* From this Answer 'tis evident, *first*, that they accused our Lord of Blasphemy, not for saying, v. 30. *I and the Father are one*, but for styling God his Father, and so in effect saying, he was the Son of God: For this is the Reason of that Accusation which our Lord here speaks of. *Secondly*, our Lord here proves himself to be the Son of God, because the *Father had sanctified*

*(a)* Sanctificatum se a Patre proponit, dum ergo Sanctificationem accipit a Patre, minor Patre est, minor autem Patre consequenter sed Filius. Pater enim si fuisset, Sanctificationem dedisset, non accepisset; nunc autem prostendo se accipere Sanctificationem a Patre, hoc ipso, quo Patre se minorem accipiendo ab ipso Sanctificationem probat, Filium se esse, non Patrem monstravit. *Novat. c. 22.*



## 16 Dr. Whitty's last Thoughts.

*fied him, and sent him into the World :* Whereas he who hath one numerical Essence with the Father, must do the same Action which the Father doth, and so must sanctifie *Himself*, and send *Himself* into the World. *Thirdly*, He proves himself to be the Son of God, because he did the Works of his Father ; for so it immediately follows, *v. 38. If I do not the Works of my Father, believe me not to be his Son.* Now these Works, saith he, I do *ἐν ὀνόματι τοῦ πατρὸς*, *in my Father's Name*, that is, not by *my own*, but by *his* Authority, and Power ; whereas he who is numerically one in Essence with the Father, must do his Works by one and the same Authority and Power.

*Fifthly*, No numerical Essence can do an Action by another ; for where the Essence is the same, the Action must proceed from the same Essence, and so not be done by another. And yet it is expressly said, *Ephes. iii. 9. That God created all Things by Jesus Christ. That by him he made the Worlds, Heb. i. 2. That God will judge the Secrets of Men by Jesus Christ, Rom. ii. 15. He that raised up the Lord Jesus Christ, shall raise us up also by Jesus, 1 Cor. iv. 14. It pleased the Father by him to reconcile all things to himself, Col. i. 19, 20. Likewise reckon ye also your selves to be dead indeed unto Sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord, Rom. vi. 11. and verse 23. For the Wages of Sin is Death,*  
*but*

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*but the Gift of God is eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord. And, I thank God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, chap. vii. 25. And again, Unto him be Glory in the Church by Christ Jesus, Eph. iii. 21. And, My God shall supply all your needs, according to his riches in Glory, by Christ Jesus, Phil. iv. 19.*

For the same Reason, we could not, upon this Supposition, properly be said to have things from God, or to do things to God, *by Christ: To have Peace with God &c By, or Through, our Lord Jesus Christ, Rom. v. 1, 11. To the only wise God be Glory, &c By our Lord Jesus Christ, Rom. xvi. 27. Thanks be to God who hath given us the Victory, &c By our Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Cor. xv. 57. Such Hope have we to God, by Christ, 2 Cor. iii. 4. We are filled with the Fruits of Righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ to the Glory of God the Father, Phil. i. 11. We give Thanks,  $\Theta\omega\iota\ \kappa\alpha\iota\ \Pi\alpha\tau\epsilon\rho\iota$ , to God, even the Father by him, Coloss. iii. 17. We offer up spiritual Sacrifices, acceptable to God, through Jesus Christ, 1 Pet. ii. 5. That God in all things may be glorified, through Jesus Christ, chap. iv. 11.* Now if Christ be the same only wise God, acting by the same individual Essence, can Glory be given to him by our Lord, and not by himself? Can our Sacrifices be acceptable to God by him, and not also to him? Or can God in all Things be glorified by himself? *By him, saith St. Paul, let us offer*



18 *Dr. Whitby's last Thoughts.*

*up our Sacrifices of Praise to God always,* Heb. xiii. 15. And if he be the same individual Essence, must they not be offered also to him, as well as by him?

In fine, it is observable, that though our modern Writers do endeavour to prove from the Miracle our Saviour did, that he was the same supreme God with the Father, yet Christ himself doth only use them to prove, that he was sent by the Father, and had Commission from him to deliver this Message to the World. As is evident from these Words, *Joh. v. 36. But I have greater Witness than that of John: For the Works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same Works that I do, bear Witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.* And when he raised up *Lazarus* from the Dead, he speaks thus to his Father, *Father, I know that thou hearest me always: But this I said that they, the Jews, might believe that thou hast sent me,* Joh. xi. 42.

Secondly, Hence it is certain, that there can be no Communication, internal Production, or necessary Emanation of the individual Essence of the Father to the Son.

*First,* Because, as I have already proved, an individual Essence cannot be communicated; and also because a particular Essence, subsisting by its self, in intelligent Beings, as the Essence of the Father is, is the same as a Person; and therefore cannot be communicated without the Communication of the Person: And yet  
it

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it is on all Hands granted, that the Person of the Father, as a self-existing Being, was not, and cannot be communicated to the Son.

*Secondly*, Internal Production, that is, Production in the Essence of the Father, is indeed no Production at all. For since this internal Production is said to give to the Son no distinct Existence of its own, 'tis manifest it is a Production of nothing, that is, no Production at all; for that which hath no Existence of its own, is not produced. Nor,

*Thirdly*, Can the Son's Essence be produced by necessary Emanation? *first*, Because such Emanation, and the Essence from which it emaneth, would both be as equally self-existent, as 'tis equally necessary for God to be an intelligent Being, and to be at all. For whatever necessarily and essentially belongs to that which is self-existent, is its self, self-existent, as being indeed only the very same thing apprehended under a partial Consideration.

*Secondly*, Because it is the general Doctrine of the Ante-nicene Fathers, that the Son was produced by the Will of the Father. This is expressly taught by *Ignatius*, *Justin Martyr*, *Hippolytus*, and *Novatian*. And, saith *Eusebius*, it is that Doctrine which οἱ σοφώτατοι τῶν Πατέρων ἐν τοῖς οἰκείοις συντάγμασιν ἀπεφώνησαν, *is that Doctrine which the wisest of the Fathers declared in their genuine Works*, Eccles. Theol. l. 1. p. 20. And the same Father puts this Difference betwixt the Emanation of Light



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from the Sun, and the Generation of the Son of God ; that the first results necessarily from the Nature of the Sun, it being of necessity that all luminous Bodies should send forth Rays of Light. But that the Son was the Image of the Father κατὰ γνώμην καὶ προαίρεσιν αὐτοῦ, according to his *Council* and *Choice*. (a)

A necessary Emanation from the Father by the Will and Power of the Father, is an express Contradiction ; because Necessity, in its very Notion, excludes all operation of Will, and Power, though it may be consistent with Approbation. See all this fully proved, in the Agreement of the Fathers, Section the 4<sup>th</sup>. And in my Answer to Dr. W. Part, 2. from p. 19, to p. 22.

Lastly, 'Tis observable that in *Irenæus's* Time, the way of expressing the proceeding of the Son from the Father, seems not to have been determined by any Decision of the Church, but only by the *Valentinian* Heretics, as seemeth plain from the Words of *Irenæus* ; *The Valentinians*, saith he, *are* irrationabiliter inflati, *unreasonably puffed up*, by pretending to know the *unspeakable Mysteries of the Generation of Christ* : And if any Man asks, saith he, *Quomodo Filius a Patre prolatus est ?* (a) *nemo novit dicemus ei, nisi solus qui generavit Pater, & qui natus est Filius*, *How the Son proceeds from the Father, whether*

(a) *Demon. Evang.* l. 4. c. 3. p. 147, 148.

(b) *L.* 2. c. 48. p. 176. *Ed. Grab.*

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*whether by Prolation, or Generation, or by Declaration, or by whatsoever Name it be called; we answer, No one knows but the Father who begat, and the Son who was begotten of him.*

*Fourthly,* Hence it follows, that Christ must be truly God, because he hath Dominion over all Flesh, and all Power in Heaven, and in Earth, imparted to him. For this Dominion is the Ground of Divine Worship and Authority : According to that Aphorism, Deus est qui Dominium habet, summus summum, verus verum, falsus falsum, *He is God who has Dominion; he is the supreme God, who has the highest and underived Dominion; a true God, who has true Dominion over all Things; a false God, who falsely pretends to that Dominion which he has no right to Exercise.* And to this we may refer those Words, Heb. iii. 3, 4. ὁ δὲ κατασκευάσας τὰ πάντα ὁ Θεός, *He that governs all things is God.* See the Note there. Our blessed Lord therefore having a true Dominion over all things in Heaven and Earth, must be truly God. And that this Dominion is given and committed to him by the Father, doth not render him less truly God; because the Word, God, being a relative Term, it is not the metaphysical Nature, but the Exercise of Dominion that constitutes him *a God* to us. And this Dominion he ascribeth to himself in these Words, *The Father judgeth no Man, but hath committed all Judgment un-*



## 22 Dr. Whitby's last Thoughts.

to the Son : And hence infers, that *all Men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father that sent him* ; and adds, *he that honoureth not the Son, honoureth not the Father that sent him*. Accordingly, Origen saith, the Heathens can shew no *Command* for worshipping, *Antinous*, or any of their other Gods. Whereas the Christians have an express Command, (a) from the most high God, to worship Christ, viz. those Words, that *all Men should honour the Son*, &c. And again, The Maker of the World commended Jesus Christ to the Breasts of all Christians, to be honoured with Divine Honour, not for his Unity of Essence, with him, but for the Efficacy of his wonderful Doctrine. Novatian (b) saith, *That God the Father is justly stiled the God over all, and the Original, even of the Son himself whom he begat, Lord of all ; and also, that the Son is the God of all other things subject to him*. Accordingly St. Paul teacheth us, *that God hath highly exalted him, and given him a Name above every Name ; that at the Name of Jesus, every Knee should bow, of things in Heaven, things in Earth, and things under the Earth, and that every Tongue should confess that Jesus Christ, is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father*, Phil. ii.

(a) Ἀποδοῦναι τι ἀπὸ Θεοῦ δίδουσι ὑμῶν τὸ τιμᾶν. *Contra. Celsum* l. 8. p. 384.

(b) L. 31. p. 730.

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ii. 9, 10, 11. And accordingly, *Irenæus* (b) saith in the forecited Passages, that *Christ* is verè Deus & Dominus, *truly God and Lord*; though he owned he received his Dominion over all Creatures, from the Father.

*Fifthly*, Hence it is evident, that *Jesus Christ* must have received, as the Foundation of this Dominion, all Power necessary to the Exercise thereof, since it is unreasonable to conceive, that an All-wise God should have given that Power to him, which he had not enabled him to execute; and therefore, that his Providence must reach to the Government, and Direction of all Creatures, *all things being made subject unto him*; and that he must have the largest Power, *for he hath put all things under his Feet*, 1 Cor. xv. 27, 28, 29. For from this Power given by the Father to have Life in himself, he infers, *that the Dead shall hear the Voice of the Son of God, and live*, Joh. v. 25, 26. And hence St. Paul informs us, *that he shall Change our vile Bodies, into the likeness of his glorious Body, according to the mighty Power whereby he is able to subdue all things to himself*, Phil. iii. 21. He being appointed to be the Judge of Quick and Dead, must have the Knowledge of the Hearts of those whom he is to judge, that so he may judge of all Men according to their Works. And therefore this Knowledge he

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ascribes

(a) L. 3. c. 6.



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ascribes to himself in these Words, *All the Churches shall know that I am he who searcheth the Reins and the Hearts, and will give to every one according to his Works*, Rev. ii. 23.

Now to him who hath the Knowledge of the Hearts of all them who pray unto him, who hath Dominion over all things in Heaven and Earth, who is able to raise the Dead with glorious Bodies, who hath Power over all Flesh, to give eternal Life to them that believe in him, and to punish all who obey not his Gospel, and to reward every Man according to his Works, doubtless we have sufficient Ground to pray to, as well as to believe, hope, and trust in him, and to depend upon him for all the Blessings we can want, and he is able to confer upon us. Thus therefore we are to honour the Son, like as we honour the Father that sent him, and hath given all Power into his Hands.

Now from what hath been thus discours'd, we learn two Reasons why our blessed Lord may be truly stiled God.

*First*, By Reason of his Divine Excellencies, he having derived from the Father the like Excellencies to those by which the Father himself doth govern the World, and exerciseth his Divine Power over all things, *viz.* a Providence ruling over all Things, a right to judge all Men; and a Knowledge of the Secrets of the Hearts of them whom he is to judge.

And

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And hence most of the Ante-Nicene Fathers say, that he is, εἰκὼν τῆς Πατρικῆς Θεότητος, καὶ ἀπὸ τοῦ Θεοῦ, *the Image of the Father's Deity, and therefore God.*

*Secondly,* Because he hath Dominion over all things in Heaven and Earth, and God hath put all things under his Feet. For seeing God hath given that very Dominion which he himself exerciseth, into the Hands of the Son, he must have thereby constituted him truly God and Lord over us. And tho' he was qualified for this Dominion before by his Divine Excellencies, he could not have them given him before there was an Heaven and an Earth, over which he should have Dominion.

Hence even of God the Father, *Tertullian* saith, (a) though he was always God, he was not always Lord, nam ex quo esse cæperunt in quæ potestas Domini ageret, ex illo per accessionem potestatis, & factus, & dictus est Dominus; And again, Sic & Dominus non ante ea quorum Dominus existeret, sed Dominus tantum futurus quandoque—per ea quæ sibi servitura fecisset, *He was not Lord, nor to be called so, till he had made those Creatures over which he was to have Dominion.* Hence,

*Sixthly,* It follows, that the Son of God must be truly inferiour to God the Father, and the Father truly superiour to him, since he who receiveth all his Power and Excellencies from the Father, and hath them all derived from

(a) *Contra Hermog.* c. 3. p. 234.



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from him in whom they are self-existent, and underived; he who is sent by, and is obedient to his Father's Will, must be inferiour to him, who sent him (a). And hence it follows that the Worship due unto him, though it be Divine, is inferiour Worship, as being the Worship of one to whom the Father hath given all Dominion both in Heaven and Earth. In Heaven; *For when God brought forth his first begotten into the World, he said, Let all the Angels of God worship him,* Heb. i. 6. And St. Peter informs us, *That Angels, Authorities, and Powers, are made subject unto him,* 1 Pet. iii. 22. In Earth; *For the Father judgeth no Man, but hath committed all Judgment unto the Son, that all Men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father; He that honoureth not the Son, honoureth not the Father that sent him,* Joh. v. 22, 23.

Now hence it is plain, that because Christ was the Son of Man, therefore the Father gave him Authority to execute Judgment, or committed all Judgment to him. And because God gave him Authority to execute Judgment, therefore all Men should honour him even as they honour the Father, that is, in other Words, Christ's Honour, and Worship, are founded upon the Father's Gift : And the Reason

(b) Τὸ γὰρ ὑπακούειν τὸν θεὸν τῷ θεῷ, οὐκ ἐστὶν ἄλλο, ἀλλὰ προσώπων παρατατικόν. Eu f. Ecc. Theol. l. 1. c. 20. p. 94.

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Reason of the Father's giving it, was his becoming the Son of Man. Surely then the most high God must be superior to the Son of Man : And he that gave this Honour to him, must be superior to him who receiv'd it from him as his Gift.

Hence St. Paul informs us, *that God hath highly exalted him, and given him a Name that is above every Name, that at the Name of Jesus, every Knee should bow, of things in Heaven, and things in Earth, and things under the Earth ; And that every Tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father*, Phil. ii. 9, 10, 11. Now he who is made Lord, to the Glory of God the Father, cannot be the same Lord, with God the Father : Since then he must be Lord, and God to his own Glory. All that Dr. *W——d* offers, to evade the Force of this Text, is fully considered, and confuted by the ingenious Author of the Unity of God, in his Answer to the Dr's. Remarks, pag. 38. But against this Dr. *W——d* objects these Words of *Irenæus* (a), *Qui super se habet aliquem superiorem, & sub alterius potestate, est hic neque Deus, neque magnus Rex dici potest ; that is, he that hath another superiour to him, and is under the Power of another, cannot be called God, or a great King.* Not considering, or, rather, unduly concealing

(a) l. ii c. 29. p. 104.



## 28 Dr. Whitby's last Thoughts.

concealing that these Words were spoken against the Heresies of the *Valentinians*, and *Marcionites*, who not only held that there was another superiour to that God who made the World, but that the God who gave the Law was *only just, but not good*; and that this superior God sent Jesus to annul what he had done. *Irenæus* saith, they call'd him moreover, *Malorum Fabricatorem*, (a) *The Maker of evil Things*. And that Jesus was sent by that Father, qui est super Mundi Fabricatorem Deum, *who was superiour to God, the Maker of the World, to dissolve the Law and the Prophets*, & omnia opera ejus Dei qui Mundum fecit, (b) *and all the Works of that God who made the World*. And well might *Irenæus* say, that he that hath thus a Superiour, and is so far under the Power of another, as to destroy all that he had done, and pronounces him a wicked Being, can neither be truly God, nor a great King. But yet this hinders not, but that he who hath a Power over all things committed to him from the Father, who acts by his Authority, and always agreeably to his Will, may be truly God: He being, as—*Eusebius* truly saith, εἰκὼν τῆς πατρικῆς θεότητος, καὶ ἀπὸ τούτου θεός, *The Image of the Father's Deity, and therefore God*.

Moreover the Fundamental Principle of the Protestant Religion is this, *That the Holy Scrip-*

(a) L. 4. c. 5. p. 278.

(b) L. 1. c. 29. p. 104.

Cont. Marcet. l. 2. c. 23. p. 141. l. 1. c. 2. p. 61, 62.

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*Scriptures contain a sufficient Clearness in all things necessary to be believed, or done in Order to Salvation.*

Whence it clearly follows, that what is not with sufficient clearness contain'd in the Scripture, cannot be truly deemed a necessary Article of Christian Faith, or a Doctrine necessary to be believed unto Salvation.

Hence therefore I think it may rationally be enquired,

*First, Where hath the Scripture said, that the Individual Essence of the Father, hath been communicated to the Son, and Holy Ghost, or that they derive the same individual Essence ἐξ ὁσίας τοῦ Πατρὸς, from the Essence of the Father, or have the same individual Essence with him, and so are the same one God?*

*Secondly, Where hath the Scripture said, that the Son proceedeth from the Father by a necessary Emanation? Or,*

*Thirdly, By an internal Production within the Essence of the Father; though that seems plainly necessary to be asserted by those who call themselves Orthodox; since, if he be produced *extra Essentiam Patris*, he must have another Essence from that which is the Father's.*

*Fourthly, Where hath it any where spoken any thing of the wonderful Emperickorefsis of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, which the*  
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Post-Nicene *Fathers* speak of, with so much Confidence and Assurance ?

*Fifthly*, Where hath the Scripture plainly spoken any thing of the *ένωσις υποστάτιχη*, or *Hypostatical Union*, broached first by *Cyril of Alexandria*, and by *Theodore* (a) pronounced to be a thing unknown to the *Fathers* that lived before him ?

*Sixthly*, Where hath it said, *that the Holy Ghost essentially proceeded from the Father and the Son* ?

*Seventhly*, Where hath it declared, *that all or any of these things are necessary to be believed in order to Salvation, as the Pseudo-Athanasian Creed doth* ? Or by what Authority do Men come after him, and declare that necessary which God hath never made so ? This being plainly to add unto God's Word, and to usurp the Authority of that one Legislator, and Judge, *who alone is able to save, and to destroy*, James iv. 12. What is this but without Divine Authority, rashly to exclude Men from Heaven, and sentence them to Hell : And to usurp the Authority of that God, whom we are only to call *Father upon Earth*, and of that *Jesus* who is our only *Guide*, and *Teacher*, in opposition to all other Teachers ?

*Eighthly*, Where doth the Scripture say, *that the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, have only one*

(a) Την ὃ καὶ ὑπόστασις ἑνὴν παντέπασιν ἀγνοῦμεν ὡς ζῶν, καὶ ἀλλόφυλον τῶν θείων γραφῶν, καὶ τῶν ταύτας ἡρμηνεύσαν Πατέρων.  
*Reprehen. Tom. 4. p. 709.*

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one, and the same individual Will, or that all three in one complex Notion, do one and the same individual Action? The Falshood of which Assertion, I have elsewhere proved. And,

Lastly, Where doth the Scripture say, *that three Persons can subsist in one numerical Essence?* This being in Effect to say, as Dr. W——d doth not blush to do, (a) *that three intelligent Agents may be one intelligent Agent, and no more?* Had all these things been necessary to have been believed, surely they would have been, either in express Words, or plain Consequence contained in the Holy Scripture. And if they cannot be found there, it must be granted, at least by all *Protestants*, that they are not necessary to be believed, as not being contain'd in their Rule of Faith.

In our Discourses with the Doctors of the *Roman Communion*, we distinguish betwixt such Articles as we call *positive*, or *affirmative*, or which we do assert to be delivered in that Scripture which is our Rule of Faith; (and that these are contained in Scripture we own our selves oblig'd to prove) and those which we call *negative*, or such as we deny to be contained in our Rule of Faith; as that the *Pope* is Christ's *Vicar* upon Earth; *That the Host is transubstantiated into the real Body and Blood of Christ, united to his Divinity,* and

(a) Defence, p. 350.



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and therefore is to be worshipped with Latria, that is, with Worship only due to the great God of Heaven: That it is to be offered as a propitiatory Sacrifice for the Sins of the Living, or the Dead: That Saints, and Angels are to be worshipped by Mental, or Oral Prayers: That we are to bow down to, or worship Images, or Crucifixes: That the Sacraments of the New Testament are Seven: That Prayers are to be offered for the Dead, to free them from the Pains of Purgatory: That Prayers are to be administred in Latin, though it be an unknown Tongue to the People: And lastly, That general Councils are infallible; and that Priests do formally forgive Sins, and not declaratively only.

Now as to these *negative Propositions*, we declare we are not obliged to prove from Scripture, that it doth expressly deny them, but think it sufficient, that we don't find them contained in our Rule of Faith: because whatsoever is of Divine Revelation, must be contained in these Scriptures, in which alone, we have the Mind of God revealed to us. From whence it follows, that if we would act agreeably to our Fundamental Principle, we also must reject all other pretended Articles of Christian Faith, which cannot be sufficiently proved to be contain'd in the Holy Scriptures.

It is a true and excellent Saying of one of the Antients, that *Deus non ducit ad Calum*  
per

Dr. Whitby's last Thoughts. 33

*per difficilia, That God brings not Men to Heaven by difficult Matters. And seeing God would have all Men to be saved, and come to the Knowledge of the Truth, necessary to that End, 1 Tim. ii. 4; and since the Gospel was indited for the Salvation of all Men in general, Greeks, and Barbarians, Wise, and Unwise; and seeing St. Paul declares, that in preaching of it, they used great plainness of Speech, 2 Cor. iii. 12; seeing, lastly, our excellent Homily \* on this Subject, teacheth us, That there is nothing spoken in dark Mysteries in one Place of Scripture, but the same thing is more familiarly and plainly taught in another, to the Capacity both of the Learned, and Unlearned; And those things which are plain to understand, and necessary for Salvation, every Man's Duty is to learn them; And seeing also, all the antient Fathers expressly and frequently say the same thing, as I have proved elsewhere, (†) Hence it is very evident, that not only the Niceties contain'd in the Pseudo-Athanasian Creed, cannot be necessary to be believed unto Salvation, as the Author of that Creed thrice asserts, because some of the unlearned Laiety cannot understand them; but also that the Propositions mentioned by me, as not clearly contained in Scripture, cannot be necessary to be believed in order to that End; since by Experience we*

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find

(\*) Hom. iſt.

(†) Defence of Bishop Bangor's Prop. p. 36, 37, 38.



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find that even learned *Clerks* are so exceedingly divided, and so eagerly dispute concerning the Truth, or Falshood of them. Some saying, That they are not only true, but also necessary to be believed ; and others, as sincerely honest, and upright in their Enquiries after Truth, asserting, not only that they are false, but that they are obnoxious to many Contradictions, and Absurdities ; which is a certain Demonstration that they are not delivered in Holy Scripture, with that clearness of Speech, which St. *Paul* mentions : And much less without great Difficulties, surmounting the Capacity of the unlearned. Again,

It seems to me very considerable, that the Wisdom of our *Blessed Lord*, of the *Holy Ghost*, and of the *sacred Writers*, should be so full, copious, and frequently express in things necessary to be done in order to Salvation ; and yet be so sparing, or rather silent, as to the Articles pretended to be as necessary to be believed unto Salvation. Since All wise Agents, truly desirous of the Salvation of them whom they instruct, will be as much concerned that they should know what is necessary to be believed, as what is necessary to be done, in order to Salvation.

Nor can Salvation be obtained by our Obedience to what is necessary to be done in order to Salvation, without the Knowledge of what is necessary to be believed to the same End.

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And yet it seemeth evident, that the *Holy Scriptures*, and *inspired Pen-Men* of them, who have so fully taught us all things necessary to be done in order to Salvation, have been comparatively silent, in reference to these Articles, pretended to be as necessary to be believed to the same End. For Instance,

Our blessed *Saviour* in his excellent Sermon on the Mount, concludes with these Words, *Therefore whosoever heareth these Sayings of mine, and doth them, I will liken him to a Man which built his House upon a Rock.*

Whence it is evident, that they who did those Sayings, must be wise unto Salvation. In the very beginning of that Sermon, he pronounceth *the pure in Heart blessed, for they shall see God ; The poor in Spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven ; They that mourn, for they shall be comforted ; The merciful, for they shall obtain Mercy ; The Peace-Makers, for they shall be called the Children of God ; They who are persecuted for Righteousness sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven :* Though in all that whole Sermon he taught them nothing of these Propositions. Now, either it must be said, that no Man can be poor in Spirit ; pure in Heart ; truly merciful ; true Mourners ; true Peace-Makers ; or truly Sufferers for Righteousness sake ; unless they do assent to those Propositions, (and then wonderful is it, that he who said those things to the *Jews that they might be saved*, should



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in this long Discourse speak nothing of them;) or else it must be certain from our Saviour's Words, that they may be blessed, who do not believe them. In the same Sermon he saith also, *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but he that doth the Will of my Father which is in Heaven.*

Now sure it would be very hard to say, that no Man could sincerely do the Will of God, who does not firmly believe all the fore-mentioned Propositions, of which our Saviour speaketh not one Word; and yet more hard to think that he should not only know them to be as necessary to be believed, as any one thing he had taught, was to be done, and yet say nothing of them; But also say unto his Father, *This is Life eternal, to know thee to be the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.* And,

*Lastly, our Saviour says, Ye are my Friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you, Joh. xv. 14. And promised, v. 10. That if we keep his Commandments, we shall abide in his Love; And that he will give to them that hear his Voice, eternal Life: Since he hath said, that they who know his Precepts, shall be happy if they do them; that he who hath his Commandments, and keepeth them, is one that loveth him; that if any one loveth me, he will keep my Sayings, and the Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make*

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*make our abode with him, Joh. xiv. 23.* It must be certain that they who yield sincere Obedience to his Laws, shall be for ever happy.

Now what can be conceived necessary to the Performance of this Obedience, besides sufficient Power to do what is commanded, and the most strong and powerful Inducements to engage us so to do? Seeing the first must make us able, the second must be sufficient to make us willing, to do what is required of us. Since therefore it is certain, that a just, and gracious Lawgiver cannot require us, on Pain of his severe Displeasure to do what *he will* not enable us to perform; and since it is as certain, that the Promise of eternal Life, that is, the Promise of the greatest and most lasting Blessing that we can enjoy, must be sufficient to make us willing to do what we are able; it must be also certain, that the Divine Assistance, which God will certainly afford to all that do sincerely ask it, that they may be strengthened in the inward Man to do his Will, and that a firm Assurance of that eternal Life, which he hath promised to them that do so, must be all that is necessary to the Performance of that Obedience, to which Christ hath annexed the Promise of eternal Happiness.

St. *John* concludeth the History of his Gospel in these Words; *There are many other things which Jesus did, which are not written in this Book, but these things are writ-*



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*ten, that ye might believe, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, ye might have Life through his Name; plainly declaring that eternal Life may be obtained by a plain Belief that Jesus is the Christ, and a Life suitable to that Faith. Where by the way, we are to observe, that he spake this of the Belief, not of the Godhead of Jesus Christ; but of the Deeds done by him, which as he himself saith, bear witness that the Father hath sent him, and therefore that he was the Christ.*

*Agreeably to this, saith the Apostle Paul, This is the Word of Faith which we preach, that if thou shalt confess with thy Mouth, that Jesus Christ is Lord; and shalt believe in thine Heart that God hath raised him from the Dead, thou shalt be saved, Rom. x. 8, 9. Because by owning him as our Lord, we own our Obligation to yield Obedience to his Commands; For why, saith he, call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? And the Belief of his Resurrection affords the highest Motives to perform it, we being, saith St. Peter, 1 Ep. i. 3. begotten by his Resurrection from the Dead, to a lively hope of an Inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, that fadeth not away, reserved in the Heavens for us.*

*Now from this Principle, that a Rule prescribed by an All-wise God, to teach the most simple, rude, and ignorant, as well as the wise*  
and

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and prudent, what is necessary for them to believe, and do, in order to Salvation, must be plain, and easy to be understood, by the most simple and illiterate, it follows,

*First*, That 'tis repugnant to the Wisdom of God, to require any thing as necessary to be believed, which is dubious, and obscure in Scripture; since that would be to propound that as a Means for obtaining an End, which he knew to be insufficient to obtain it; it being certain, that what is dubious and obscure in Scripture, cannot afford us a certain Knowledge of our Duty.

*Secondly*, It also seems repugnant to the Goodness of God, to perplex and confound weak Minds with such Subtilties, for the Knowledge of which he has not given them suitable Qualifications. Seeing, as *St. Paul* observes, *God accepteth, according to that a Man hath, and not according to that he hath not*, 2 Cor. viii. 12. Now it is evident, from the continual Clashings of our most learned Divines about these Subtilties, that the *illiterate* can have no certain Knowledge of the Truth or Falshood of them.

*Thirdly*, It seemeth inconsistent with the Justice and Righteousness of God, to require any Man to believe what he does not, nor cannot, understand; for no Man can be said to believe, that is, assent to, what he does not understand; because Assent is an Act of the Understanding, and we must understand the Mean-



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ing of every Term in a Proposition, before we can assent to it, or dissent from it ; for Words of which we do not understand the Meaning, are the same to us, as if they had no Signification at all. A Righteous God puts upon no Man the *Egyptian Task, of making Brick without Straw* ; nor requires any thing of us in order to our Salvation, which we cannot perform ; that being in Effect to require impossible Conditions of Salvation from us. See this farther proved, *Serm. 4. Sect. 2. 3, 4, 5.*

In fine, Belief, or Disbelief, can neither be a Virtue, or a Crime, in any one who uses the best Means in his Power of being informed. If a Proposition is evident, we cannot avoid believing of it ; and where is the Merit or Piety of a necessary Assent ? If it is not evident, we cannot help rejecting it, or doubting of it ; and where is the Crime of not performing Impossibilities, or not believing what does not appear to us to be true ? If I have done my best Endeavour to know the Mind of God revealed in Scripture, I have done all I could, and therefore all that God requires of me in order to that End : Can then a good and gracious God be angry with me, or condemn me for my unwilling Mistakes, when I have done all that was in my Power to avoid them ?

In fine, It is observable that the very Nature of a *Prophet* requires this, that he should be a Person sent from God, and not speaking  
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in his own, but God's Name. Hence concerning the false Prophets, God speaks thus, *I have not sent them, yet they run; I have not spoken unto them, yet they prophesie*, Jer. xxiii. 21. And again, chap. xiv. 14. *Then the Lord said unto me, The Prophets prophesie lies in my Name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake I unto them, they prophesie unto you a false Vision.*

Hence our blessed Lord having said, *My Doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me*: He also adds, Joh. vii. 17. *If any Man will do his Will, he shall know of the Doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of my self*: That is, whether I be a true, or a false Prophet. This being the established Notion of a Prophet; and our Saviour being that Prophet, which Moses told them should come after him, and which was promised to the Jews, he must perform that Office, as other Prophets did, by speaking not in his own Name, but in the Name of him that sent him.

Accordingly, during his Prophetick Office here on Earth, he says, that *he spake not of himself, but as the Father that had sent him had given him a Commandment, so he spake*. Joh. xii. 49. And chap. xiv. 24. *The Word which you hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me*, And V. 31. *As the Father gave me a Commandment, even so I do.*

And



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And lastly, The *Prophetical Revelations* made to St. John, in the *Apocalyps*, are stiled *the Revelations of Jesus Christ, which God gave to him to shew unto his Servants things which must shortly come to pass.*

Now hence it follows, that the Accusations of the *Jews*, must be false, malicious, and scandalous Accusations, seeing he who came into the World, as a *Prophet* sent from God, one speaking not in his own, but in his Father's Name, and declaring that his Doctrine was not his, but his that sent him, could never say at the same time, that he was the very God that sent him, that he spake not in his own, but in the Name of God, and delivered not his own Doctrine, but that of him that sent him. It being certain that the *supreme God* could not be the Person sending, and yet the Person sent. He could not speak in the Name of another, nor say his Doctrine was not his.

Hence it is remarkable, that in all those Places, in which the *Jews* accused him of *Blasphemy*, and making himself God, or *equal* with God, or ascribing to himself what properly belonged to the great God alone, he never directly answers, that he was God, or equal to him, (although if he were sent to preach that Doctrine to the World, it is reasonable to expect upon these Occasions, he would have done it,) but he ever speaks as one who waved that Assertion.

For

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For when the *Scribes* enquire, *Why doth this Man speak Blasphemy? Who can forgive Sins but one, that is, God*, Mark ii. 7? He doth not answer, as others do for him, that this proved him to be God: but only saith, *The Son of Man hath Power upon Earth to forgive*, (the temporal Punishment of) *Sin*. Ascribing to himself that Power, not as he was the Son of God, much less, as being God of the same Essence with the Father: But only as he was the Son of Man. Again, from these Words, *Joh. v. 17. My Father worketh hitherto*, Works of providential Care, Goodness, and Mercy; *and these charitable Actions, I work also*. From these Words, I say, of his calling God his Father in so peculiar a manner (as he did, and had just cause to do, had he been only miraculously conceived in the Virgins Womb, and upon that account *the Son of God*, Luke i. 25. *The Son of the most High*, v. 32) they invidiously infer, v. 18. that *he called God*, Πατέρα ἰδίου, that is, *his Father*, in such a proper Sense, as made him equal to God, as a Son is to his Father.

Now to this, Christ doth not answer, as it might have been expected from one who was sent into the World to confirm that Doctrine, to wit, that he had reason thus to call God his Father, as being of the same individual Essence with him: But his Answer contains many things wholly inconsistent with that Doctrine.

For



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For his Reply is, *That he could do nothing of himself*, v. 19, 20. *That the Father judgeth no Man; but hath given all Judgment to the Son*, v. 22; and that *because he was the Son of Man*, v. 27. *That he sought not his own Will, but the Will of the Father that sent him*, v. 30. *That the Father which sent him*, he was the Person that *bore Witness of him*, v. 37. And that *he came not in his own, but in his Father's Name*, v. 43. And lastly, *the Works which his Father had given him (Power) to do, bore Witness of him, that the Father had sent him*, v. 36. All which Sayings are plainly inconsistent with an Identity of Essence, Will, and Actions, in God the Father, and the Son. In the 10th Chap. they accuse him of Blasphemy, not for saying, v. 30, *I and my Father are one*, but as Christ himself declares, v. 36, *Because he said, I am the Son of God*. And yet, he being accused of Blasphemy, *because he being a Man made himself God*, had reason to reply, had it been true, that being of the same Essence with the Father, by representing himself as God, he only told them the Truth, whereas he proves himself to be only the Son of God, first, because the Father had *sanctified, (a) and sent him into the World*; and yet it is absurd to say,

(a) Dum ergo accipit Sanctificationem a Patre, minor Patre est; minor autem patre consequenter est, sed Filius: Pater enim si fuisset, Sanctificationem dedisset, non accepisset. Novatianus de Trinitate, c. 22.

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say, he either sanctified, or sent into the World his own numerical Essence. And *Secondly*, because *he did the Works of his Father*, v. 37. to wit, by Virtue of that Power which the Father had given him, *Joh. v. 36*, And by the Spirit of his Father dwelling in him: For *he did them by the Spirit of God*, Matth. xii. 28. *By the Finger of God*, Luke xi. 20. *By the Father in him, as he was in the Apostles*, Joh. xiv. 20. And *who were in the Father, and Son, as the Father was in the Son, and the Son in the Father*, Joh. xvii. 22, 23.

Farther, it is remarkable that the Scriptures both of the Old and New Testament, seem plainly to speak of one who is called God, and Lord, in Scripture, and yet is inferior to, and derives his Power from another.

For to omit *Gen. xix. 24*, which by the *Ante-Nicene Fathers* is generally interpreted of God the Father and the Son, this seems expressly to be contained in these Words, *Psal. xlv. 7, 8. Thy Seat, O God, endureth for ever, the Sceptre of thy Kingdom is a right Sceptre: Thou hast loved Righteousness, and hated Iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the Oil of Gladness above thy Fellows.* Now that these Words are apply'd to Christ we learn from St. Paul, saying, *But to the Son he saith, Thy Throne, O God, is for ever and ever. A Sceptre of Righteousness is the Sceptre of thy Kingdom*, Heb. i. 8. And *Secondly*, This God hath another  
God



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God who is stiled *his* God, and who hath appointed him with the Oil of Gladness above his Fellows. For, saith the *Baptist*, Joh. iii. 34. *God gave not the Spirit by Measure unto him*, as he did unto the other Prophets. A like Instance we have of two Lords in these Words, (a) *Psal. cx. 1. The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my Right Hand, until I make thine Enemies thy Footstool.* For these Words, *my Lord*, our blessed Saviour himself declares were spoken of Christ, *Math. xxii. 49.* And the Apostle represents him as a Lord who had all things put under him by a superiour Lord, by saying, *the Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou on my Right Hand, 'till I have made thy Foes thy Footstool. Therefore let all the House of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ, Acts ii. 36.* And the Apostle represents him as a Lord, who had all things put under him by a superiour Lord, by saying; *When he saith, All things are put under him, it is manifest he is excepted, which did put all things under him, that God may be all in all, 1 Cor. xv. 27, 28.* From which Words, *Irenæus*, (b) *Tertullian*, and *Novatian* prove that Christ at the

(a) *Iust. M. Dial. cum Tryph. p. 277. & p. 357. & Euseb. Prep. Evang. l. 7. c. 12. p. 322. & l. 11. c. 14. p. 532. hæc habet, τὸν μὲν ἀντιτάτω Θεὸν λέγει ὁ πρῶτος κύριον, τὸν δὲ τότε δευτέρου λέγει τῆς δευτέρας ἀποφάντας προσηγορίας.*

(b) Vide Interp. Patrum in locum.

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the End of the World, is to give up his Kingdom, or his Dominion received from him, unto God the Father.

Another Evidence of the Superiority of God the Father, to our Lord Jesus Christ, ariseth from these Words of St. Paul, *We know there is no other God but one; for though there be that are called Gods, whether in Heaven, or in Earth, as there be Gods many, and Lords many, yet to us, Christians, there is but one God the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him,* 1 Cor. viii. 4, 5, 6. Where it is plainly said; first, that all Christians know, that there is but one God. And,

*Secondly*, That, That one God, is God the Father. And,

*Thirdly*, That this God the Father, is distinguished from our Lord Jesus Christ by this Character, that he is God,  $\epsilon\zeta\hat{\sigma}$ , *from whom are all things*: But our Lord is only He,  $\delta\hat{\iota}\hat{\sigma}$ , *by whom are all things*: And that God the Father is the Christians one God, Christ their one Lord. It is scarcely possible to say this more fully, or more plainly than the Apostle doth. And seeing here the Apostle speaks of the Father in Person, stiling him the Christians one God; he must stile him that one Person, who hath emphatically, or by way of superiority, the Divine Nature. But of this I have given a fuller Proof, in my Reply to Dr.

W—d,



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*W*——d, (a) to which he hath yet returned no Answer.

*Thirdly*, This also is evident, from those places which say, that such a thing was done by Jesus Christ, or such Honour was conferred upon him *to the Glory of God the Father. We are filled with the Fruits of Righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ to the Glory and Praise of God*, Phil. i. 11. And that *God had exalted him (who being in the Form of God, took upon him the Form of a Servant,) and given him a Name above every Name, that at the Name of Jesus every Knee should bow, and every Tongue should confess, that Jesus Christ is the Lord, to the Glory of God the Father*, chap. ii. 9, 10, 11.

And surely he who is Lord to the Glory of God the Father, *who works in us the Fruits of Righteousness, to the Glory of God the Father*, must be inferior to him whose Glory is the End, both of his Exaltation to be Lord, and of that Righteousness he worketh in us. So when St. Peter saith, *If a Man minister, let him do it, as of the Ability which God giveth, that God in all things may be glorified, through Jesus Christ*. For seeing Actions flow from the Essences of them, whose Actions they are ; where the singular Essence is one and the same, the Action must be one and the same : And when an Action is done by one  
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(a) Sect. 4. from p. 95. to p. 100.

to this End, that another may be glorified ; he, to whose Glory it is done, must be superior to him, for whose Glory it is done : The End being still more noble than the Means by which it is accomplished.

*Fourthly*, This still more visibly appears from that plain Distinction, which is put betwixt God the Father, and the Son, by way of Gradation, as in these Words, *All are yours, for you are of Christ, (or are Christ's) and Christ is of God.* Now we are Christ's, as being Members of that Body, of which he is the Head : But yet with great Inferiority to Him. And therefore it seems reasonable to conceive, that these Words, *Christ is of God*, should signifie that he is inferior, and subordinate to him : Especially, if we add to them the like Words in this Epistle, chap. xi. 3. *The Head of the Woman, is the Man ; The Head of the Man, is Christ ; The Head of Christ, is God.* For the Ground of these Gradations, is plainly the Superiority and Dominion, which the one hath over the other.

*Fifthly*, This is evident from those Places in which they are put in Opposition ; as in these Words, *Joh. xvii. 3. This is Life eternal, that they may know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent :* And 1 Thess. i. 9, 10. *Ye have turned from Idols to serve the living, and true God ; and to wait for his Son from Heaven, whom he raised from the Dead, even Jesus which delivered*



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*livered us from the Wrath to come.* From which Words it is evident, that God the Father must be in some more excellent Sense, the only true God, the true and living God, than his Son Jesus Christ, whom he sent into the World (a).

The same Distinction, and Opposition appeareth from these Words, *To the only wise God be Glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord,* Rom. xvi. 27. And 1 Tim. vi. 13, 14, 15, 16. *I command thee before God who quickeneth all things, that thou keep this Commandment unspotted, till the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which in its proper Season he shall shew, who is the only Potentate, who only hath Immortality:* Where the God who quickeneth all things, is not only distinguished from our Lord Jesus Christ: but is stiled the only Potentate, who only hath Immortality; that is, by a Description, which in some eminent Sense must agree to him alone.

This, *Lastly*, may be argued from those Epithets, which are peculiar to God the Father, and are never in Scripture applyed to the Son. As,

*First*, that he is Θεὸς ὑψίστος, *God most high, or the most high God,* Gen. xiv. 18, 19, 20.

*So*

(a) Ecclesia Dei non prædicat duos Deos, ἡ γὰρ διὰ ἀγέννητα, καὶ διὰ ἀναρχα, ἀλλὰ μίαν δόξαν καὶ Θεὸν εἶναι, τὸν αὐτὸν Πατέρα διδάσκουσα εἶναι, ἑμμεγενοῦς, καὶ ἀγαπητῆς υἱῆς· μόνον αληθινὸν Θεὸν μόνον σοφόν, ὁ μόνος ἔχει ἀθανασίαν, Quibus Epithetis Deum Patrem a Deo Filio distinguit. Euseb. de Eccles. Theol. l. 2. c. 23. p. 141.

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So also he is called in the New Testament, *Acts* xvi. 17. *Heb.* vii. 1. Whereas the Son is only called υἱὸς τοῦ ὑψίστου, *The Son of the most High*, *Mark* v. 7. *Luk.* i. 32. vi. 35. viii. 28. *Acts* xvi. 17.

*Secondly*, the Word (Παντοκράτωρ) 2 *Cor.* vi. 18. which signifies, omnipotens Deus, qui omnibus imperat, *the omnipotent God who commands over all*, in Scripture is the Epithet of God the Father only. He is also stiled, *The only true God*, *Joh.* xvii. 3. *The only good God*, *Matth.* xix. 17. *The only wise God*, *Rom.* xvi. 27. *To God only wise, be Glory, through Jesus Christ for ever, Amen.* See also 1 *Tim.* i. 17. and *Jude* xxv. All which Epithets shew that these Excellencies do most eminently, originally, and properly, belong to God the Father, and only derivatively, and consequentially, to the Son, to whom they never are ascribed in the sacred Writings.

In fine, this Doctrine, that the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, are of one and the same individual and numerical Essence, seems to burlesque the Holy Scriptures, or to give them an uncouth, and absurd Sense, from the Beginning of the *Gospel*, to the End of the *Epistles*.

To select some few Instances of this Nature.

*First*, When St. *Matthew* saith, that at the Baptism of our Saviour, the *Holy Ghost descended upon him in the shape of a Dove; and a Voice was heard from Heaven, saying, This*



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*is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased;* The Words according to this Doctrine, must signifie, that the supreme God descended upon the supreme God, and the Voice of the supreme God said from Heaven, This is the supreme God in whom I the same supreme God am well pleased.

*Secondly,* When it is often said, *He that receiveth you, receiveth me; and he that receiveth me, receiveth him that sent me,* Matth. x. 40. Luk. x. 16. Joh. xiii. 20. the Meaning of these Words must be this; He that receiveth you, receiveth the supreme God; and he that receiveth the supreme God, receiveth him that sent the supreme God: So that the supreme God must both send, and be sent by himself.

*Thirdly, My Doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me,* Joh. vii. 16. That is, according to this Exposition; My Doctrine is not the Doctrine of the supreme God, but 'tis the Doctrine of the supreme God that sent me. And,

*Fourthly,* When 'tis said, *Whosoever receiveth me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me,* Mark ix. 37. and Joh. xii. 44. *He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me,* The Meaning must be this; He that receiveth the supreme God, receiveth not the supreme God, but the supreme God that sent him. And he that believeth on me the supreme God, believeth not on me the supreme

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preme God, but on the supreme God that sent me.

*Fifthly*, Joh. xi. 41, 42. Our Lord saith, *Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: But because of the People which stand by, I said it, that they may believe, that thou hast sent me*; that is, I thank thee, O supreme God, that thou hast heard me the supreme God, and I knew that thou the supreme God, hearest me the same supreme God always: But this I said, that they might know that thou, the supreme God, hast sent me the same supreme God.

*Sixthly*, I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever, even the Spirit of Truth, Joh. xiv. 16. (a) that is, I the supreme God, will pray the supreme God, and he shall send you the supreme God.

*Seventhly*, Chap. xv. 26. *But when the Comforter is come, saith Christ, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of Truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testifie of me.* Where we have, first, I, the Father, and He, that is, three Persons of the same numerical Essence, one of which is sent, by the same supreme God, from the same supreme God, and is ὁ παράκλητος,   
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(a) ὁ υἱὸς μὲν ὁ παρακαλῶν, Πατὴρ δὲ ὁ παρακαλούμενος, παράκλητος δὲ ὑπογελλόμενος. Basil, Contra Sabellianos. Tom. 1. p. 521. Vide. Reliqua.



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one who is an Advocate with the same supreme God.

*Eighthly*, Christ, in his Prayer to the Father, saith, *this is Life eternal to know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou, the only true God, hast sent*, Joh. xvii. 3. which according to this Exposition, makes the only true God to send the same only true God with himself.

*Ninthly*, When St. Paul saith, *to the only wise God be Glory through Jesus Christ our Lord*, Rom. xvi. 27, the Meaning must be this; to the only wise God be Glory through the same only wise God.

*Tenthly*, 1 Cor. xv. 24, 25, &c. we have these Words, *Then cometh the End, when he shall have delivered up the Kingdom to God even the Father, when he shall have put down all Rule, and all Authority, and Power. For he must reign 'till he hath put all Enemies under his Feet. The last Enemy that shall be destroyed, is Death; For he hath put all things under his Feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest, that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also be subject to him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.* Where we are plainly taught to put a clear, and full Distinction, betwixt that God who is the Father, and him who is here stiled the Son. For,

*First,*

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*First*, He, (that is, That Son, who is here said to Reign, and have a Kingdom, and in the *Prophet Daniel*, to be stiled *one like the Son of Man, who comes to the antient of Days, and hath Dominion, and Glory, and a Kingdom given him, that all People, Nations, and Languages should serve him*;) He is here said to *deliver up his Kingdom*, at the close of the World, *to the Father*.

*Secondly*, God the Father, or *Jehovah*, is he that is said to put all things under his Feet, with plain Relation to these Words, *Psal. cx. 1. The Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou on my Right Hand, 'till I make thy Foes thy Footstool*. Whence the Apostle here saith, that he must reign 'till he, that is, God, hath put all Enemies under his Feet.

*Thirdly*, The Apostle adds, that when 'tis said, that he hath put all things under him, it is manifest, that he, that is, God is excepted, which did put all things under him.

*Fourthly*, He farther saith, that when all things are put under him by God, then shall the Son himself *be subject to him, that did put all things under him*. And,

*Lastly*, He adds, that this is to be done, *that God*, (even the Father to whom he is to deliver up this Kingdom) *may be all in all*.

Now it is the highest Absurdity to say that both these Persons, this Father, and this Son, have both one, and the same numerical Essence; this being in Effect to say,



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*First*, That this Son must deliver up this Kingdom from, and to himself.

*Secondly*, That he must sit at his own Right Hand, and that this Lord must say unto himself, Sit thou on my Right Hand.

*Thirdly*, That the one supreme God must be excepted from the one supreme God.

*Fourthly*, That he must be subject to himself. And,

*Fifthly*, That all this must be done, that God the Father may be all in all. All which seem palpable Absurdities, and Contradictions.

*Sixthly*, Eph. ii. 18. *Through him we both have an Access by one Spirit unto the Father*; that is, by the supreme God, through the supreme God, we have an Access to the same supreme God.

*Seventhly*, Eph. iv. 4. *There is one Spirit, one Lord, one God and Father of all*. That is, there is one supreme God, one supreme God, and one supreme God.

*Eighthly*, The Apostle tells the *Philippians* chap. i. 11. *That they are filled with the Fruits of Righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the Glory, and Praise, of God*; that is, of himself. And chap. ii. *That Christ being in the Form of God*, that is, being the supreme God, *thought it no Robbery to be equal with, the same supreme God*; that is, with himself; And, *that the supreme God had exalted him, and given him a Name above every Name, and requires all*  
Persons

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Persons to confets, *that Jesus was the Lord*, that is, the supreme God, *to the Glory of God the Father*, that is, of the same supreme God, *Phil. ii. 6, 9.*

*Ninthly*, Colof. iii. 4, *Christ sitteth at the Right Hand of God*; that is, the supreme God sitteth at his own Right Hand.

*Tenthly*, Thess. i. 9, 10. *Ye turned to God from Idols, to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from Heaven, whom he raised from the Dead, even Jesus which delivered us from the Wrath to come*, that is, to serve the living and true God, and to wait for the same supreme God, raised up from the Dead.

*Eleventhly*, Heb. ii. 3. *How shall we escape if we neglect so great Salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord—God also bearing Witness to it*, that is, the one supreme God bearing witness to the Word spoken by the same supreme God.

*Twelfthly*, 1 Pet. i. 21. *By Christ we believe in God*; that is, by the supreme God we believe in the same supreme God, *that our Faith and Hope might be in the same God.*

*Thirteenthly*, 1 Joh. ii. 2. *If we sin we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous, and he is the Propitiation for our Sins*; that is, with the same supreme God: And he, the same supreme God, is the Propitiation for our Sins.

*Fourteenthly,*



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*Fourteenthly*, Jude iv. *Denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ*; that is, denying the only Lord God, and the same only Lord God.

*Fifteenthly*, Rev. i. 1. *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him*, that is, the Revelation of the one supreme God, which the one supreme God gave unto him. See also, v. 5. and chap. iii. v. 12. *Him that overcometh will I make a Pillar in the Temple of my God; and I will write upon him the Name of my God*; that is, Him that overcometh, I the one supreme God, will make a Pillar in the House of me, the same God, and will write upon him the Name of me the same God, and the Name of the City of me the same God. And v. 21. *To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my Throne, even as I overcame, and am sit down with my Father in his Throne*. Now surely the same supreme God must have the same Throne with him who is the same supreme God: Unless it can be said, that the same Essence has one Throne, and the Person of the same Essence has another.

This will be still more evident from a Reflection upon the third Person of the sacred Trinity, who, according to this Doctrine, is of the same individual Essence with God the Father, and the Son. For as hence it necessarily follows, that the Spirit of God, is the same with the God of God; and to receive this Spirit,

rit, is to receive that God who gives the Spirit; so it is manifestly inconsistent with many Passages of the Holy Scripture which speak of him. For Instance, *First*, our Saviour saith, *Joh. xvi, 13. When the Spirit of Truth is come, he will guide you into all Truth: For he shall not speak of himself: but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak, and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorifie me: For he shall receive of mine, and shew it unto you.* Now it is self-evident, that the supreme God must speak of, and from himself, and not what he heareth from another: And that he can take nothing from another to shew to us. So *Rom. viii. 26. The Spirit helpeth our Infirmities in Prayer to God, and maketh Intercession to him for us*, that is, He maketh Intercession to himself. And again, *The Spirit maketh Intercession for us according to the Will of God, v. 27.* that is, according to his own Will. And *1 Cor. ii. 10. But God hath revealed the things that he hath prepared for them that love him, to us by his Spirit*; that is, by himself, *For the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God*; that is, of himself. And *v. 11. The things of God knoweth Gods none, but the Spirit of God*, that is, God himself. And *v. 12. Now we have received the Spirit of God*, that is, the supreme God, *that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.* that is, of the same God. And *1 Cor. iii. 16. Know*



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*ye not that ye are the Temple of God ; and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you ? that is, the same God dwelleth in you ? And chap. vi. 19. What ? know ye not that your Body is the Temple of the Holy Ghost ; that is, of God, which is in you, and which is given you of the same God ? And Eph. ii. 22. You are builded together for an Habitation of God through the Spirit ; that is, through the same God. With many other Sayings of the like Import.*



Dr.



# Dr. *WHITBY*'s LAST THOUGHTS.

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## PART. II.

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Proceed now to expound some Passages of Scripture, which seem to have been misunderstood by most modern Expositors, and sometimes also by *my self*. As,

*First*, Those Words of Christ, *Luk. x. 22. No Man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father, and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him. And Joh. i. 18. No Man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the Bosom of the Father, that is, who is intimately acquainted with his Mind and Will, he hath declared him.*

That



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That these Words cannot concern the *metaphysical* Nature of the Father and the Son, is evident, because our Saviour hath made no such Declaration, or Revelation, of that Nature, to us, or his Disciples. They therefore only can concern the Dispensation of the New Testament, and Salvation by Jesus Christ, and the Knowledge of the *Will* of the Father, and the way by which he would be worshipped, delivered to us by his Son.

Hence when St. *Peter* had declared, that *Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God*, (or as it is, *Mark* viii. 29. *Thou art the Christ*,) Christ said unto him, *Flesh and Blood have not revealed this unto thee; but my Father which is in Heaven*, *Matth.* xvi. 17. And *John* xvii. 6. Christ also saith, *I have manifested thy Name unto the Men which thou gavest me, and they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee, and have known surely, that thou hast sent me*,

From which two Places it appears, that God the Father, by revealing to St. *Peter*, that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God, revealed the Son to him; and that Christ himself, by manifesting unto his Disciples that he came from God, and that he had sent him, manifested his Father's Name to them. And *John* xvi. 25. He promised hereafter to shew them plainly of the Father; and yet he did this, not by giving them any Instructions concerning

cerning the *Metaphysical* Nature of the Father, or any Declarations of that Nature, but only by giving them a clear Insight into the Tenor of the Gospel-Dispensation, and into the Counsel of his Will.

*Secondly*, To proceed to those Words, *Joh. x. 30. I and my Father are one.*

The great Question here is, whether these Words are to be understood of the Unity of the Father and Son, as to their same *monadical Essence*, or, (as many of the Ante-Nicene Fathers did interpret them) of an Unity in Will, Design, Affection and Concord?

That they could not be intended to declare an Unity of their individual *Essence*, seems highly probable both,

From the Context,

From the like Expressions in the Scripture, and

From the very Nature of the thing.

*First*, From the Context: For there, our Saviour saith, *The Works that I do in my Father's Name*, that is, by his Authority and Power imparted to me, *bear Witness* of me, *v. 25.* Which Words are evidently repugnant to a numerical Unity of Essence in them both. Since, where the Essence is one, the Actions must be one, and done by the same Authority and Power.

To which add, that the Words, *I and my Father*, are Words plainly importing two Persons. For the Word, *Father*, is personal, and  
the



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the Word, *I*, is a Pronoun personal ; so that if these two are one and the same God by Ver- tue of this Text, they must be one in Person as well as Essence.

Moreover, *v. 29. My Father which gave them me, (saith Christ) is greater than all.* Which again destroys the numerical Unity of Essence betwixt both ; since no one Essence can give any thing to itself, and much less a Divine and All-perfect Essence : Nor can one Essence be greater than itself. Whereas our Lord expressly saith, *My Father is greater than I, Joh. xiv. 28.*

*Secondly*, This will be farther evident from the parallel Expressions used by our Lord, in the same Gospel, where he prays, that his Dis- ciples *may be one, as thou Father art in me, and I in thee, that they might be made per- fect in one* : And yet doubtless, he could not pray that his Disciples might be one in Essence with the Father and Son, but only that they might be one by having the Spirit of the Fa- ther and Son dwelling in them. In which Sense (a) *Athenagoras* says, the Father and Son are one, (*viz.*) ἐνότητι τῷ πνεύματι by Unity of the Spirit.

Thus (b) *Origen* Interprets this Verse. For having cited these Words, *I and my Father are one* ; if any one, saith he, is disturbed at these Expressions, as if we favoured the Opi-  
nion

(a) p. 10.

(b) *Contra Celsum*, p. 386.

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nion of the *Noetians*, who deny the Father and the Son to be δύο ὑποστάσεις, two singular Existences; let him consider this Text, *Acts* iv. 34. *All that believed were of one Heart, and one Soul*, and then he will understand this, *I and my Father are one thing*: We serve therefore, ὡς ἀποδεδώκαμεν, as we formerly explained it, one God the Father, and the Son; we Worship the Father of the Truth, and also the Son who is the Truth, being indeed two things in Subsistence, but in Agreement and Consent, and Sameness of Will, they are one.

Here indeed, he only saith we worship the Father of the Truth, and the Son who is the Truth and Wisdom: But in his Comment on *John*, p. 70. he adds, that the Father is πλείων, μείζων ἀλήθεια, a fuller and greater Truth, and, being the Father of Wisdom, is greater and more excellent, as he is Wisdom, than the Son. Then he proceeds, p. 387, to shew, that among the Multitude of Believers, some, differing from the rest, rashly affirmed, as the *Noetians* did, that our Saviour was the God over all; which, saith he, we Christians, or we of the Church, do not believe; as giving Credit to the same Saviour, who said, *My Father is greater than I*. And lastly, he saith, p. 38, We Christians manifestly teach, that the Son is not stronger than the Father, who is the Creator of the World, ἀλλ' ὑποδέετο, but inferiour in Power to him. Which Words afford the clearest Demonstration, that the



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Church of that Age did not believe that our Saviour was *ὁ ἐπὶ πᾶσι θεός*, the supreme God, or one of the same numerical Essence with the Father; and therefore could not interpret those Words of such an Unity, but only of an Unity of Concord, Mind, and Will. Hence, in his Comment upon St. *John*, p. 227, he saith, that this Unity of Will, is the Cause why Christ said, *I and my Father are one*. And in his next Page adds, that the Will which is in Christ is the Image of the first Will; and the Divinity which is in Christ is the Image of the true Divinity.

*Novatian* is, if possible, still more express in this Interpretation. For in Answer to the Objection of the *Sabellians* from this place, he saith, that *Unum* being here put in the Neuter Gender, denotes not an Unity of Person, but a Concord of Society between them; they being deservedly stiled *one*, by Reason of their Concord and Love, and because whatsoever the Son is, he is from the Father. The Apostle, saith he, knew this Unity of Concord with the Distinction of Persons, by writing to the *Corinthians* thus: *I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the Increase*. For who understands not that *Paul* is one Person, and *Apollos* another? And that they had diverse Offices, one to Plant, and another to Water? And yet the Apostle *Paul* saith of these two, *ἐν ἑστί, they are one*, though as to the Distinction

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tion of Persons they are two ; with other things of like Nature.

And here it is to be observed, that *Pameli-*  
*us's* Note upon these Words, is this ; *Nempe*  
*in hoc loco, non satis accurate scribere Nova-*  
*tianum, quod nullam Essentiae Patris & Filii*  
*Communicationem adferat, sed Exemplum ab*  
*Apostolo Unitati Essentiae veluti contrarium ;*  
*in quo certè hallucinatum fuisse Auctorem non*  
*vereor dicere, quum postea Ecclesia in diversis*  
*Conciliis, diversum defini-verit.* That is, *Nova-*  
*tian* did not write accurately in this Place, as  
making no mention of the Communion of the  
Essence betwixt the Father and the Son, but  
introducing an Example from the Apostle, as  
it were contrary to it ; in which thing I doubt  
not to pronounce him erroneous, seeing the  
Church afterwards in diverse Councils defined  
the contrary.

And yet 'tis certain, that many of the Ante-Nicene Fathers in effect said the same thing. For (a) *Justin* pronounces the Son to be ἕτερος ἀπὸ τοῦ πατρὸς ἀριθμῶ ὃ γνώμη, Another from the Father in Number, but not in Consent. And his Reason follows thus, because he never would do any thing but what ὁ τὸν κόσμον ποιήσας, ὑπερ' ὃν ἄλλ' ἕκ' ἐστὶ θεός, βεβύληται καὶ πρᾶξαι καὶ ὁμιλῆσαι, the Maker of the World would have him do and speak. Where, *First*, This God the Father is plainly stiled Another in

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Number



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Number from him that made the World. And *Secondly*, the Son is represented as one not doing his own Will, but being in all things subservient to, and delivering the Words of that God, from whom he is thus distinguished.

(a) *Lactantius* saith, that the Father and Son are one, *quia unanimes incolunt Mundum*, because they unanimously dwell in the World.

(b) *Eusebius* pronounces the Father and Son to be one, ὃ καὶ ὑπόστασιν ἀλλὰ χεὶ τὴν κοινωνίαν τῆς δόξης, not as to the Essence, but as to Communion of Glory. And lastly,

The Council of *Antioch* pronounceth the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to be τρία μὲν ὑπόστασις τῇ δὲ συμφωνίᾳ ἓν, that is, three in Subsistence, but one only in Consent, or Concord. (c) *Tertullian* declares, in Answer to this Objection of the *Sabellians*, that these Words, *I and the Father*, *duorum esse significationem*, signifie two; and then adds, that, *Unum neutrali verbo non pertinet ad Singularitatem, sed ad Unitatem, ad Similitudinem, ad Conjunctionem, ad Delectionem Patris qui Filium diligit; & ad Obsequium Filii qui Voluntati Patris obsequitur*: Which last Words shew that it is impossible that this Text should be interpreted of the numerical Essence, or Unity of the Father and Son; seeing one and the same Essence cannot be obsequious or obedient

(a) Lib. 4. c. 29.

(b) Eccles. l. 3. c. 19.

(c) *Adversus Praxeam*, c. 22. p. 575.

dient to itself. And yet there is nothing more common among the Ante-Nicene Fathers, than to say with *Novatian*, who having affirmed that the Son, *obedierit Patri, & obediatur*, always did, and always doth obey the Father, thence makes this Inference;—*Quid tam evidens esse potest hunc non Patrem esse, sed Filium, quam quod obediens Patri Deo proponitur?* What more evidently shews that Christ is not the Father, but the Son, than this, that Christ is obedient to the Father? *Cap. 23.* And again, *Cap. 30. Filius nihil ex Arbitrio suo gerit, nec ex Concilio suo fecit, nec a se venit; sed Imperiis Paternus omnibus, & Preceptis obedit, ut quamvis probet illum Nativitas Filiū, tamen morigera Obedientia asserat ipsum Paternæ Voluntatis, ex quo est, Ministrum. Ita dum se Patri in omnibus obtemperantem reddit, quamvis sit & Deus, Unum tamē Deum Patrem de Obedientiā sua ostendit, ex quo & traxit Originem:* That is, in short; The Son of God by his dutiful Obedience to all his Father's Commands, and to his Will, (he doing nothing by his own Will and Counsel,) by this demonstrated, that, though he was God, yet the Father from whom he came forth, and whom he obeyed, was the one God, even that one God, of whom he saith, *Nos scimus & legimus & credimus & tenemus, Unum esse Deum, qui fecit Cælum pariter ac Terram, quoniam nec alterum novimus, aut noscere (cū multus sit) aliquando poterimus*



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*mus*; that is, we Christians know, believe, and hold, that there is one only God the Creator of Heaven and Earth; nor know we, nor can we know any other, because there is no other. And again, God the Father is, *Unus Deus, cujus neque Magnitudinem, neque Majestati, neque Virtuti quicquam non dixerim præferri, sed nec comparari potest*; that is, that one God, to whose Greatness, Majesty, and Power, nothing can be compared, *Cap. 30.* And indeed all the *Greek* Fathers, from *Justin* to *Eusebius* inclusive, do frequently inform us that the Son did ὑπαγετεῖν τῷ θελήματι τῆς Πατρὸς obey the Will of the Father, that he did ὑπεργεῖν, διακονεῖν, ὑπαγετεῖν, minister, and was subservient to him.

And all that writ in Latin, from *Tertullian* to *Lactantius* inclusively, that he did, *Patris voluntati administrare*, administer to the Will of the Father; That he did, *obedire in omnibus Patri*, obey the Father in all things; That the Son, *voluntati Patris fideliter paret nec unquam faciat aut fecerit, nisi quod Pater aut voluit aut jussit*, faithfully obeyed the Will of his Father, and never doth, or would do any thing, but what the Father willed, or ordered him to do, *l. 4. c. 29.*

It being therefore certain, that one and the same Essence, can have but one and the same Will, and that one singular and numerical Essence, cannot administer to the Will, obey, and be subservient to the Will and Commands  
of

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of another ; hence it is demonstratively evident, that he who does so, cannot have the same numerical Essence and Will with the Father.

*Thirdly, Joh. xiv. 9, 10, Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip ? He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father, and how sayest thou then shew us the Father ? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me ? The Words that I speak unto you, I speak not of my self, but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doth the Works. Where,*

*First, as to those Words, I dwell in the Father, and the Father in me, they are so far from proving that he is of the same individual Essence with the Father, that the same Apostle in his general Epistle ascribes the same to all good Christians ; saying, 1 Joh. iii. He that keepeth his Commandments dwelleth in God, and God in him. And Chap. iv. 12, 13, 14. No Man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his Love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known, and believed the Love that God hath to us. God is Love, and he that dwelleth in Love dwelleth in God, and God in him. And*



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St. Paul saith, that *Christ dwelleth in a Christian's Heart by Faith*, Eph. iii. 17. Yea in this very Gospel of St. *John*, it is said of all true Believers, *He that eateth my Flesh, and drinketh my Blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him*; And of his Disciples, *that the Spirit of God dwelleth with them, and shall be in them*; and of all true Believers, *that the Spirit of God dwelleth in them*, Rom. viii. 11. 2 Tim. i. 14, And by so doing renders them the Temple of God. And yet 'tis certain, that by this Inhabitation, they are not rendered one in Essence with God the Father.

And even our Communion-Service saith, that if we are worthy Communicants, we dwell in Christ, and Christ in us; and we pray that we may ever dwell in him, and he in us: And this is said agreeably to those Words of Christ, *Joh. xiv. 23. If a Man love me, he will keep my Words, and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our Abode with him*. And yet surely it cannot be affirmed from these Texts, that God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are so united to all true Believers, as to render them of one and the same individual Essence with them.

Moreover Christ here saith, *the Father that dwelleth in me, he doth the Works*; Whereas where the Essence is one and the same, the Action done by that Essence, must be one and the same; and so could not be truly said to be done by another.

As

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As for these Words, *Joh. xiv. 10. I am in the Father and the Father in me*; and these chap. x. 38. *That ye may believe that the Father is in me, and I in him*; that they cannot refer to the Unity of Essence of the Father and Son, is evident, from Christ's saying, and promising the same thing to his Disciples: It being certain, he could neither promise, nor pray the Father that they should be one in Essence with him. And yet he promiseth this in these Words, *Joh. xiv. 20. At that Day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you*. He prays for this in these Words, *Joh. xvii. 21. That they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they may be one, even as we are one; I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one, and that the World may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me*. And so these Words are interpreted by Origen and Eusebius. Nor,

*Fourthly*, can this be inferred from those Words of Christ to Thomas and Philip, chap. xiv. 9. *Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father, and how sayest thou then, shew us the Father?* For there our Saviour plainly shews, that they might have known and seen him, by Reason of his Presence with them, and his Discourses to them; and that by these things he had shewed



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shewed them the Father. And yet 'tis certain, that neither by his long Abodes with them, nor his Discourses to them, had he shewn them the Essence of the Father; but only had acquainted them with the Will and Dispensations of the Father. Of these things He by his long Continuance with them fully had acquainted them: But had not said one Word of his Identity in Essence with the Father.

So Christ saith to the *Pharisees*, *Ye neither know me, nor my Father; for if ye had known me, ye would have known my Father also*, Joh. viii. 19. And to his Disciples in this very Chap. v. 7. *From henceforth ye know him, and have seen him*. And yet 'tis certain they neither knew, nor could see the Essence of him who is invisible. Yea, Christ saith of the unbelieving *Jews*, *Now have they both seen and hated both me, and my Father*, Joh. xv. 24. that is, they from those Miracles I have wrought amongst them, have had sufficient means to see and know, both that I came from God, and am a Revealer of his Will, though they, through their Prejudice and Perverseness, neither truly knew (that is, acknowledged) me nor my Father. Nor,

*Fifthly*, can this be inferred from these Words, Joh. xv. 16. *All things that the Father hath are mine*; For surely he might say this, whatsoever was his Nature, *who knew that the Father had given all things into his Hand*, Joh. xiii. 3. And that he did this as  
the

the Effect of his Love to him: For, saith the Baptist, *the Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his Hand*, Joh. iii. 35.

And then this is so far from being a Proof of the Identity of the Essence of the Father and Son, that it is a Demonstration to the contrary; seeing one individual Essence can give nothing to, nor receive any thing from, itself, because it can give nothing but what it hath already, and therefore cannot receive by way of Gift.

And this in an All-perfect and Self-existent Being is the more certain, because it is incapable of any Accession to its absolute Perfection. If then God the Son hath the same numerical Essence, which God the Father hath, it could not properly, and truly be said, *That the Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his Hand*: Or that *Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into his Hand*, Joh. xiii. 3.

Secondly, Our Saviour adds, *that the Spirit shall take of mine, and shew it unto you*. And yet the Spirit did not shew to them any thing concerning the *Metaphysical* Essence of the Father, and the Son. Nor doth he say, all the Excellencies, and Perfections of the Father are mine; but only, *πάντα*, all things relating to the Gospel-Dispensation, they being all taught him by the Father. And hence he saith to the *Jews*, marvelling how he should be able to teach what they thought he never learnt, *My Doctrine*



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*Doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me; that is, as the following Words shew, It is not spoken by me from myself, but from God. Nor,*

*Sixthly*, will this follow from the mighty Works Christ did; because he himself promises to his Disciples, *Joh. xiv. 12. Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the Works that I do shall he do also, and greater Works than these shall he do, because I go unto my Father, who is greater than I, and so can enable you to do greater Works. Hence, saith he to them, If ye loved me, ye would rejoyce because I said, I go to my Father, for my Father is greater than I, Joh. xiv. 28. Nor.*

*Seventhly*, Will this follow from Christ's Command to baptize all Nations in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. For to be baptized in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, is to be baptized into the Profession of our Belief in *one God the Father Almighty, in one Lord Jesus Christ*, the only begotten Son of God sent by his Father to reveal his Will; and in the *Holy Spirit of God*, by whose Assistance the Holy Scriptures were indited. So that this Profession is absolutely necessary to our being Worshippers of the true God, who made Heaven and Earth; to our being Christians, or Owners of the Son of God, as the true *Messiah*, and of the Holy Scripture as indited by the Spirit of God. And therefore it was absolutely necessary, that the Heathens, who owned  
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none of these things whilst they continued Infidels, should be baptized into this Profession, in order to their embracing the Christian Faith. Nor,

*Eighthly*, can this be inferred from these Words of St. *Thomas*, *My Lord, and my God*; as will appear from this Consideration, that the Faith of St. *Thomas*, was only this, that Jesus was really risen from the Dead. For when the Apostles had told him, they had seen the Lord; He answers, *That except I shall see in his Hands the Print of the Nails, and thrust my Hand into his Side, I will not believe* (it.) Then Christ coming a second Time, saith unto him, *Reach hither thy Finger, and behold my Hands; and reach hither thy Hand, and thrust it into my Side, and be not faithless but believing, (viz.) that I am risen.*

*Lastly*, Our Saviour saith, *Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed*; which shews that he could believe only what he had seen, to wit, that the same Body was raised, which had been crucified; neither had he seen, nor could he see with his bodily Eyes, that He who was thus raised, was his Lord and his God. These Words therefore, *My Lord, and my God*, may have this import; *My Lord, and my God have done this*: And so they exactly agree with the Faith of the Apostles, saying, *The God of our Fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew, and hanged on a Tree*, Acts v. 20. See Acts ii. 24. Acts iii. 15, iv. 10. and xiii. 30. Or thus,



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thns, *My Lord, and my God !* How great is thy Power ; for, saith St. Paul, *God exerted the greatness of his Power, and the activity of his Might, in raising our Lord Jesus from the Dead,* Eph. i. 19, 20. But whether this be the true Import of St. Thomas's Words or no, certain it is, that it cannot be proved, that he did intend by them to signifie that he owned Jesus Christ as his Lord and his God,

*First,* Because he was bred up in the Jewish Faith, which taught him that the Lord his God, the God of *Israel*, was one Lord, and that there was no other than he : And,

*Secondly,* It would have contradicted the Faith of Christ himself, who after his Resurrection speaks to his Disciples thus : *I ascend to my Father and to your Father, and to my God and your God,* Joh. xx. 17.

And again, *Him that overcometh will I make a Pillar in the Temple of my God, and he shall go no more out : And I will write upon him the Name of my God, and the Name of the City of my God, which is in new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of Heaven from my God : And I will write upon him my new Name,* Rev. iii. 12.

Now hence we learn how weak are the chief Arguments of *Athanasius*, St. *Ambrose*, and *Cyril of Alexandria*, and other Antients, to confirm this Unity of Essence betwixt the Father and the Son, they being taken from these Words of *John*, which, as I have shew-  
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ed, afford no firm Proof, or Evidence of this Matter.

*Lastly*, Nor will this follow from these Words of St. John, *The Word was God*. For if that implies, that he is the same numerical God with God the Father, it plainly is repugnant to all the Passages following, cited in the foregoing Arguments, from this Evangelist, and also to the Text itself, where, of this Word which he stiles God, he twice says, *That He was with God*. But to say that he was the same God, with whom he was, is a Contradiction in Terms: Though indeed it was the antient Heresy of *Sabellius*.

Moreover of this Word, which is here stiled God, the Apostle saith, *He came to his own, and his own received him not*. Which cannot be true of God the Father, whom the *Jews* always owned to be their God; but only of that Jesus, who is here said to be with God, and to be God.

Thus have I considered all the Arguments for this Identity of the Father, and Son, produced from the Evangelist.

I come next to consider those which are offered to the same Purpose from the Epistles, of which the first is taken from *Rom. ix. 5*. Where in our Translation we read thus, *Of whom as concerning the Flesh, Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever*, ὁ ὢν ἐπὶ πάντων Θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἰς τῆς αἰῶνας.

Now



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Now to this Argument, I have returned one Answer in my Reply to Dr. *W—d*, by approving the ingenious Conjecture of a learned Critick, that these Words are to be read thus, *ὦν ὁ ἐπὶ πάντων Θεός*, and are to be referred to God the Father's being the God of the *Jews*. And then the whole Verse will run thus, *ὦν οἱ Πατέρες, καὶ ἐξ ὧν ὁ Χριστός*, *whose are the Fathers, and of whom is Christ according to the Flesh; ὦν, of whom, or whose, is the God over all, blessed for ever*; he being peculiarly known to them, and related to them as their God in Covenant. And this Exposition is the more probable, because this Phrase is by the same Apostle, in this Epistle, and in another, plainly referred to God the Father; as when he says, *Rom. i. 25. The Heathens worshipped the Creature more than the Creator, ὅς ἐστιν εὐλογητός εἰς τῆς αἰῶνας*. And *2 Cor. xi. 31. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ὅς ἐστιν εὐλογητός εἰς τῆς αἰῶνας, who is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not*.

But *Secondly*, The Words read according to our Translation, are interpreted by *Hippolytus*, thus; *That Christ is God over all, because God the Father had delivered all things into his Hand*. And as the Apostle saith, *had made him Head over all things to the Church*, *Eph. i. 22*. His Words are these: In these Words of the Apostle he plainly sets forth the Mystery of Truth. *He that is over all is God, for so he dares to say, All things are delivered*

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ed to me of my Father. (\*) And again, he rightly calls him Omnipotent; for this Christ testifies, by saying, *All things are delivered to me of my Father*; and he hath a Dominion over all things, and so is made Omnipotent by the Father. And it is worthy of Observation, that this Interpretation of these Words is given by *Hippolytus*, in Answer to *Noëtus*, who used them in Confirmation of his *Sabelian* Doctrine.

And whereas it is said by some, that the Apostle having said in the immediate preceeding Words, *That Christ came from the Father*, *κατὰ σάρκα* according to the Flesh, or, as to to his human Nature, it is reasonable to conceive he should proceed to say, what he was according to his Divine Nature: That this is not necessary, appears from *Clemens Rom.* (†) where speaking of the Dignity of *Abraham*, he saith, *That from him descended the Lord Jesus κατὰ σάρκα*, according to the Flesh; but saith not one Word concerning his Spiritual Descent. Nor,

Secondly, Doth this follow from these Words of the Apostle, *Gal. iv. 8. When ye knew not God, ye worshipped them, who by Nature were*

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(\*) Καλῶς διηγείται καὶ λαμπρὸν τὸ τῆς ἀληθείας μυστήριον. ἔτι δ' αὖ ἐπὶ πάντων Θεὸς ἐστὶν λέγει γὰρ ἔτι μετὰ παύρησιν πάντα μοι παραδίδεται ὑπὸ τοῦ Πατρὸς & rursus καλῶς εἶπεν παντοκράτορα χριστὸν· τὸτο γὰρ εἶπεν καὶ αὐτῷ μαρτυρήσει ὁ χριστός. μαρτυρῶν γὰρ χριστὸς ἔφη, πάντα μοι παραδίδεται ὑπὸ τοῦ Πατρὸς καὶ πάντων κρατεῖ παντοκράτωρ ὁ Θεὸς Πατὴρ κατεστάνη χριστός. *Contra. Noet. p. 10.*

(†) *Epist. ad Corinthios. Sect. 32.*



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*no Gods.* Christ being by Nature truly God, as having by that Nature which he derives from the Father true Divine Power and Dominion over all things both in Heaven and Earth, in Subordination to him who alone is absolutely ὁ Παντοκράτωρ, of himself Supreme over all.

*Secondly,* These Words may be fairly rendered thus, *ye worshipped Gods, τοῖς μὴ φύσει, Gods which had no Being or Existence in Nature.* For such were many of their fictitious Gods, *Venus, Diana, Minerva, &c.* or Gods made with Hands, for of such Gods the Apostle saith, *we know that an Idol is nothing.* And *Demetrius* the Silver-Smith complains that *St. Paul* taught, *That they were no Gods that were made with Hands,* Acts xix. 26. And the *Psalmist* saith, *The Gods of the Heathens are the Works of Mens Hands,* Psalm cxv. 5. and in this Sense this Text cannot at all concern our blessed Lord. Nor,

*Thirdly,* Will this follow from those Passages, which say *All things were made by him, and by him were all things created;* it being expressly said in the same Scriptures, *That God created all things by Jesus Christ,* Eph. iii. 9. *And that by him, he,* (that is, God the Father,) *made the Worlds,* (\*) Heb. i. 2. Now he by whom God the Father made all things, cannot

(\*) Πάντα διὰ τοῦ λόγου ἐγένετο, ἢ ὑπὸ τοῦ λόγου ἀλλ' ὑπὸ πρῆλτος, καὶ μὴ διὰ τοῦ λόγου· τίς ὃ ἀν' ἑαυτοῦ ἐστὶν τυγχάνη ἢ ὁ Πατήρ; Orig. Com. in Johan. p. 56. & ὑπερέτης τοῦ δημιουργοῦ γινώσκων ὁ λόγος τὸν κόσμον κατασκευάσας, p. 61.

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cannot be the same God with him who made all things by him. Nor,

*Fourthly*, Doth this follow from these Words of the Apostle, *in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily*, Coloss. ii. 9, For *first*, this fulness refers not to the Divine Nature, but to the fulness of his *Divine Wisdom and Knowledge*, v. 3. by which he is compleatly enabled to manifest to us both the Will and Perfections of God.

And whereas against this it is objected, that τὸ Θεῖον and Θεότης do never signifie the Doctrine of the Gospel; and that the Will of God cannot be said to dwell bodily in any Person; To this I answer, *first*, that though the Words, τὸ Θεῖον καὶ Θεότης absolutely put, do never signifie the Doctrine of the Gospel; yet πληρωμα τῆς Θεότητος, may signifie the compleat Ability of that Divine Person who is God. And in this Sense the Church is said to be, or have the fulness of that God who is all in all, by having his whole Will revealed to them. And again, *if all the Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge, may be said to be hid in Christ*, Coloss. ii. 3. why may they not also be said to dwell in him.

Thus St. John the Baptist saith of Christ, chap. i. 16, 17. *That he was full of Grace and Truth, and of his fulness have we all received*: Not meaning that we had received of the fulness of his Godhead, but only a full Knowledge of the Grace and Truth, which he



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was sent to reveal to the World. And St. Paul prays, that the *Ephesians might comprehend with all Saints, what is the Breadth, and Length, and Depth, and Heighth: And to know the Love of Christ which passeth Knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God*, Eph. iii. 18, 19. Where certainly he doth not pray that all Saints may be filled with the Divine Nature of God, but only that they might have a sufficient Knowledge of the Love of God, in sending his beloved Son to acquaint them with the Riches of his Love to them in Christ Jesus, this fulness being to be obtained *by Christ dwelling in their Hearts by Faith*, v. 17.

*Secondly*, Whatever this fulness of the Godhead Means, it was conferred on him by the good Pleasure of the Father. For, saith the same Apostle, chap. 1. 19. *it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell*; that is, it pleased the Father, thus to invest him with the fulness of Divine Power and Wisdom, for the Creation of all things, and for the Redemption and Government, and Preservation of his whole Church. For had he been one and the same All-perfect God with the Father, it could not have been truly said, *That it pleased the Father, that in him should all fulness dwell*; for then he must have had it from the Perfection of his own Nature, and not from the Pleasure of his Father. And,

*Lastly,*

*Lastly*, This will farther appear from the Connection of these Words with the foregoing, where the Apostle cautions the *Colossians* against the Philosophy and vain Deceit of the Heathen Moralists, taught after the Rudiments of the World, and not after Christ. For, saith he, *in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily*; which seems to be a plain Dehortation from attending to the Knowledge taught by these Heathen Philosophers, because of the fulness of the Knowledge which was in Christ; and adds, *That we are compleat in him, not surely by having the same Godhead with him, but by receiving a full and sufficient Knowledge of the whole Will of God revealed to us.* Nor,

*Fifthly*, will this follow from these Words of the Apostle, *Looking for that blessed Hope, and glorious appearing of the great God, and our Saviour Jesus Christ*, Tit. ii. 13. For that the great God there, signifies God the Father, is fully proved by Dr. Clarke, in his Comment upon that Text.

*Lastly*, That the *true God* mentioned, 1 Joh. v. 20. is not the Son of God, but the Father, who by our Saviour is stiled the only true God, is proved from the antient reading of these Words thus, *The Son of God is come and hath given us an Understanding*, ἵνα γινώσκωμεν τὸν ἀληθινὸν Θεόν, *that we may know the true God*, καὶ ἔσμεν ἐν τῷ ἀληθινῷ υἱῷ αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦ Χριστῷ *and we are in his true Son Jesus Christ.* This



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God of whom the Son of God hath given us this Knowledge (as our Lord hath told us, *John xvii. 3,*) *is the true God, and the Knowledge of him is eternal Life.* Thus the Disciple accords well with his Master, and only teacheth what he had learnt from him. [As for *Rev. i. 8.* See Dr. *Clarke's* Scripture Doctrine, p. 62, 63, 64. And the Modest Plea continued p. 12.]



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# T A B L E

Of the P H R A S E S, our  
Lord J E S U S C H R I S T, or  
C H R I S T J E S U S our  
Lord, which occur in the  
Epistles.

Rom, i. 7.



*Race be with you,  
and Peace from  
God our Father,  
and the Lord Jesus  
Christ.*

Chap. iv. v. 24. *Faith shall be imputed to  
us, if we believe on him that raised up Je-  
sus our Lord from the Dead.*

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Chap.



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Chap. v. v. 1. *We have Peace with God THROUGH our Lord Jesus Christ.*

v. 11. *We Joy in God THROUGH our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Chap. vi. v. 11. *Likewise reckon ye also your selves to—be alive unto God THROUGH Jesus Christ our Lord.*

v. 23. *The Gift of God is eternal Life THROUGH Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Chap. vii. 25. *I thank God THROUGH Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Chap. viii. 39. *Nothing shall separate us from the Love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Chap. x. 9. *If thou shalt confess with thy Mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine Heart, that God hath raised him from the Dead, thou shalt be saved.*

Chap. xvi. 27. *To the only wise God be Glory THROUGH Jesus Christ our Lord.*

1 Cor. i. 4. *I thank my God always on your behalf for the Grace of God which is given to you by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

v. 9. *God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the Fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Chap. xv. 57. *Thanks be to God which giveth us the Victory THROUGH our Lord Jesus Christ.*

2 Cor. xiii. 14. *The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the Communion*

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*munion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all Amen.*

*Eph. iii. 11. According to the eternal Purpose which he proposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Chap. iv. 5, 6. One Lord—One God and Father, who is above all, &c.*

*Chap. v. 20. Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Chap. vi. 23. Peace be to the Brethren, and Love, and Faith, from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Phil. ii. 11. Every Tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father.*

*Chap. iii. 17. Whatever ye do in Word or Deed, do all in the NAME of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father BY him.*

*1 Thes. i. 3. Remembring without ceasing your Work of Faith, and Labour of Love, and Patience of Hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father.*

*Chap. iii. 11. Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.*

*v. 13. That he may stablish your Hearts unblameable in Holiness before God even our Father, at the Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*2 Thes.*



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2 Thes. i. 1. *To the Church of the Thessalonians in God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

v. 12. *According to the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Chap. ii. 16. *Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God even our Father which hath loved us—comfort your Hearts.*

1 Tim. v. 21. *I charge thee before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, that thou observe these things.*

Chap. vi. 13. *I give thee Charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, that thou keep this Commandment without Spot unrebukeable until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

2 Tim. iv. 1. *I charge thee before GOD and the LORD JESUS CHRIST, who shall judge the Quick and the Dead.*

Titus iii. 6. *GOD shed on us the Holy Ghost abundantly, THROUGH Jesus Christ our Saviour—Acts ii. 23.*

2 Pct. i. 16. *Our Lord Jesus Christ received from God the Father Honour and Glory.*

Jude 21. *Keep your selves in the Love of God, looking for the Mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Should any Man instead of these Words, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, put these, THE SAME GOD, or THE SAME SUPREME GOD,

as (if our Lord Jesus Christ was the same God with the Father) he might do, the Sense would be so harsh and disagreeable, as would constrain him to suspect the Truth of that Assertion.

Moreover it farther is considerable, that in all the Places of the Old Testament, where Christ is undoubtedly spoken of, he is still represented as a King to whom the Father had given a Kingdom, or as a Lord who had received, or was to receive Dominion from him, So v. g. Psalm ii. 2. we read thus, *The Kings of the Earth, and the Princes are gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ*, which Acts iv. 25, 27. is thus interpreted, *Against thy Holy Child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed*. In the following Verses God is introduced speaking thus, *I have set my King upon my holy Hill of Sion*, v. 6. And again, v. 7. *Thou art my Son, this Day have I begotten thee*, which by St. Paul is interpreted of Christ's Resurrection, when all Power in Heaven and Earth was committed to him, his Words being these, *The Promise which was made unto the Fathers he hath now fulfilled, in that he hath raised up Jesus again, as it is written in the second Psalm, Thou art my Son, this Day have I begotten thee*. And because Christ was not to be an High Priest on Earth, but only in the Heavens, where he was to appear in the Presence of God  
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for us, *Heb. ix. 24,* Therefore the Apostle interprets this also of his Priestly Office, saying, *Christ glorified not himself to be made an High Priest, but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, this Day have I begotten thee, Heb. v. 5.* In the Words following, *Psalms ii. 8.* God saith to him, *Ask of me, and I shall give thee the Heathen for thine Inheritance, and the uttermost Parts of the Earth for thy Possession,* clearly declaring that Christ's Kingdom, was a Kingdom to be given him of that Father of whom he was to ask it.

Secondly, in the 45th Psalm, the Psalmist begins thus. *I speak of the things which I have made touching the King:* And of this King he saith, *Thy Throne, O God, is for ever and ever: The Sceptre of thy Kingdom is a right Sceptre: Thou lovest Righteousness, and hatest Iniquity; wherefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the Oil of Gladness above thy Fellows.* Where most of the Antenicene Fathers note, that there is mention of one God, who was the God of another stiled also God, who had anointed him to his kingly Office, and set him up above all his Fellows.

Thirdly, This is still more evident from *Psalms cx.* for there is mention made of one Lord saying to another Lord, that is to our Lord Christ (as he himself interprets these Words, *Matt. xxii. 44.*) *Sit thou on my right Hand, until I make thy Foes thy Footstool.* And

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And this Lord is represented as a King reigning in the midst among his Enemies, v. 2.

*Fourthly*, Isaiah xlix. 6. God speaketh to one who is called *his Servant* thus, *It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my Servant to raise up the Tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel. I will also give thee for a Light to the Gentiles that thou mayest be my Salvation to the Ends of the Earth.* That these Words relate to the Person of our blessed Saviour is evident both from the New Testament, where he is said to be *a Light to lighten the Gentiles*, Luk. i. 7, 9. and ii. 23. and also from the Greatness of the Promise, that he should be his *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth.* And here the Words MY SERVANT, and MY SALVATION, demonstrate that the Person here mentioned, cannot be the same individual Essence with that God whose Servant he is, and whose Salvation he declares to all the World.

*Fifthly*, Jer. xxiii. 5, 6. we read thus, *Behold the Day is come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute Justice and Judgment in the Earth. In his Days Judah shall dwell safely, and this is his Name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.* Where

*First*, we have mention of a King that shall reign and prosper : And,

*Secondly*,



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*Secondly*, This King is to be raised up by God; for I will raise up a King saith the Lord. And,

*Thirdly*, The Name given to this King is, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, as procuring unto us that Righteousness, or Remission of Sins, which the Law could not give, *Gal. ii. 21. and iii. 21. For he hath made him to be Sin, for us who knew no Sin, that we might be made the Righteousness of God in him, 2 Cor. v. 21.* That is, that we may be accepted as Righteous, through that Atonement which he hath made to God for us by his Sin-Offering.

*Fourthly*, The Prophet *Daniel* having given the Description of the four Monarchies, chap. ii. adds, v. 44. these Words, *That in the Days of these Kings the God of Heaven shall set up a Kingdom which shall never be destroyed.* And this he did, chap. 7. by giving to the *Son of Man*, that is, the Lord Jesus, *Dominion and Glory, and a Kingdom, that all People, Nations, and Languages should serve him.* And this Dominion is called an *everlasting Dominion which shall not pass away.*

*Fifthly*, The Prophet *Malachi* speaks thus: *The Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his Temple*, chap. iii. 1. where it is agreed on by all Christian Interpreters, that this Lord is Christ, even that Jesus whom God hath made both Lord and Christ, *Acts ii. 36.* That one Lord of Christians, Jesus Christ by whom

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*whom are all things.* Here then 'tis manifest, that even those Jews who owned only one Lord of Heaven and Earth, and one God, and none other but he, *Mark xii. 35*, expected notwithstanding another Lord who should suddenly come to his Temple, even the Messenger of the Covenant, whose coming they with great Joy expected.

In fine, That celebrated Place, *Isaiah ix. 6.* seems to be of the same Import with the rest. For *first*, the Prophet there speaks of a *Child born, and a Son given to us*, to wit, by God according to these Words of the Angels to the Sheperds, *To you is born this Day a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.* And,

*Secondly*, It is prophesied that the *Government shall be upon his Shoulders*; and it is added, *v. 7.* that *of the Increase of his Government there shall be no End upon the Throne of David, and upon his Kingdom to order it.* Whereas the Kingdom of the great God of Heaven is neither capable of Increase, nor Diminution, nor can that be called the Throne of *David.* And,

It is farther said, that *the Zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this*, that is, as *Grotius* interprets it, The Love of God to Mankind will induce him to send this Son to us. So that this Governour seems plainly to be the same *Jesus*, of whom the Angel speaks to the Virgin *Mary* thus, *Luk. i. 32, 33.* *He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the highest*



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*Highest, and the Lord God shall give unto him the Throne of his Father David, and he shall reign over the House of Jacob for ever, and of his Kingdom there shall be no End.*

Whatsoever therefore may be the Sense of the Titles here ascribed to this Son, and Governour, it is certain from these things that they cannot import that he is the same God with the Soverign Lord of Heaven and Earth.

From all which Places it is evident, that though the Jews neither owned, nor expected, any other God, yet they expected and were promised another King, another Lord, who was to reign over the House of *David*, and that this King was the Son of God, the Messiah, or Saviour, who was to give Salvation to *Israel*, and was the Messenger of the new Covenant established in the Blood of Jesus.

Now hence ariseth a full and sufficient Answer to all the Texts cited by Dr. *W——d*, to prove what the wiser Jews owned, that there was but one God, and none other but he, *Mark* xii. 32. For though it be very certain that there neither is, nor can be more than *one* Self-existing God, who alone has all Perfections; and all Dominion absolutely in and of himself, original, and underived, and independent on any, yet the *Jews* did, and from those Scriptures had Reason to expect a *King*, who from this God was to receive the Heathen for his Inheritance, and the utmost Parts of the Earth for his Possession, and who is stiled *his Son*,  
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set upon his holy Hill of *Sion*; and a *Son of Man*, to whom this God would give Dominion and Glory, and a Kingdom, that all People, Nations, and Languages, should serve him; who was the Lord whom they expected, even the LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Seeing then our blessed Lord Jesus Christ is in the New Testament still represented as that very Person into whose Hands the Father *had* committed *all things*, that Son to whom *all Judgment is given*, to whom he had given a *Power over all Flesh*, that he might give *eternal Life to all those that God had given him*; to whom he had given *all Power both in Heaven and in Earth*, and whom he had made *Head over all things to his Church*, — This must be the very Person promised to the Jews in the Old Testament, and so must have a true Dominion from the supreme Author of all Dominion, and so be *verus Deus*, truly God, though not *summus Deus*, the supreme God, or God most high: And to ask whether Christ can be God at all, unless he be the same with the supreme God, is to ask whether the Scripture has done rightly in stiling him *God*, when at the same time it is on all Hands confessed that he is not he who alone has all Perfections, and all Dominion, absolutely in and of himself, original, underived, and independant on any; that is, he is not the first Cause, the one God of whom are all things, 1 Cor. viii. 6. but that he is the Son of that God and Father of all.





# DISCOURSE I.

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I C O R. viii. 6.

*To us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him ; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.*



THE Apostle in the Beginning of this Chapter represents it as a Notion common to all Men, and more especially received by all Christians, that there is but one God. For, saith he, *We know that there is no other God, εἰ μὴ εἷς, but one only, v. 4.* And in the Beginning of this Verse he as expressly tells us, that this one God of the Christians, is God the Father only. For seeing that it is expressly said, *v. 4. that there is not ἕτερος Θεός εἰ μὴ εἷς, any other God but one only,* and as expressly

# DISCOURSE I. 99

pressly said, that this εἷς Θεὸς ὁ Πατὴρ, this one God is the Father (a) : Hence doth it plainly follow, that this one God of the Christians is God the Father, and no other. And suitably to this (by saying that to us there is but one Lord Jesus Christ,) he must intend to signifie, that he is, Ἀγαπητὸς, by way of Distinction, and peculiarly the one Lord of Christians, so that no other is so in the same Import of the Words. For whereas it is said by some, that as the Apostle, by saying there *is one Lord*, to wit, Jesus Christ, cannot be reasonably supposed to exclude the Father from being also the *Lord* of the Christians; so neither, by saying *there is one God the Father*, ought he to be supposed to exclude *Jesus Christ* from being also the *God* of Christians :—To this it is replied, that the Father is certainly excluded from being our Lord in that Sense in which Christ is in Scripture stiled so, seeing he cannot be *made* Lord and Christ by God, as Jesus Christ is said to be, *Acts* ii. 36. *He cannot be exalted to be Lord to the Glory of God the Father*, as he is said to be, *Phil.* ii. 9, 10, 11. Nor can he be that *Lord* to whom another *Lord* said, *Sit thou on my Right Hand, till I make thine Enemies thy Footstool*. Hence 'tis observable,

*First*, That though in the *Epistles* of the Apostles, we have frequent mention of Jesus

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Christ

(a) Vide Euseb. Eccles. Theol. l. i. c. 6. p. 64.



Christ our Lord, yet he is always distinguished from God the Father. As in these Words, *Rom. xvi. 27. To the only wise God be Glory, through Jesus Christ.*

*Secondly,* 'Tis said, that *all things are of God, reconciling us to himself* through our Lord Jesus Christ, *2 Cor. v. 18, 19.* Whereas 'tis absurd to say, that God reconciled us to himself by himself, as he must do, if our Lord Jesus Christ had the same individual Essence with himself.

*Thirdly,* St. Paul declares, That *every Tongue must confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father,* which plainly shews the Distinction in Essence between them: For nothing can be done by him who is one in Essence with God the Father to the Glory of God the Father, *Phil. ii. 9, 10, 11.* And,

*Fourthly,* He styles himself an Apostle, *by the Commandment, or Will, of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Tim. i. 1.* which is inconsistent with an individual Unity of Essence, in both God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ: For where the Essence is one, the Will and the Command must be one also. And again, *2 Tim. iv. 1. I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the Quick and the Dead at his Appearing:* Which Words plainly imply a Distinction betwixt him who is here called God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Lastly,*

## DISCOURSE I. 101

*Lastly, St. Peter saith, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Chap. i. 3. and adds, v. 31. that by him, we believe in God. Now he by whom we believe in God, cannot be that God in whom we believe.*

*Secondly, Observe that throughout the Acts of the Apostles, our blessed Saviour is often called our Lord Jesus Christ, but never stiled our God. There it is plainly said that he, who had God with him, and was anointed with the Holy Ghost, and with Power, &c. and was sent by God to preach the Word, and was ordained by him to be Judge of all Men, was Lord of all. And how he became so the same Apostle informs us in these Words, This Jesus hath God raised up and exalted, &c. Know ye therefore that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ, Acts ii. 32, 33, and 36. There it is said that the dispersed Christians preached the Lord Jesus, chap. xi. 20. They hazarded their Lives for the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, chap. xv. 26. St. Paul and Barnabas there say to the Jaylor, Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thine House, chap. xvi. 31. and chap. xix. 5. He baptizeth the twelve Disciples of John, in the Name of the Lord Jesus. And chap. xx. 21. They testify both to the Jews and Greeks, Repentance towards God, and Faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ.*



Now *Baptism* doth certainly procure our Admission into the Church of Christ, and gives us a Title to Salvation: And so also doth *Faith* in our *Lord Jesus*, as *St. Paul* testifies in these Words, *If thou shalt confess with thy Mouth, Κύριον Ἰησοῦν, Jesus the Lord, and shalt believe in thine Heart that God hath raised him from the Dead, thou shalt be saved, Rom. x. 9.* These things have been observed in a little Treatise, which saith thus, That the *Acts* of the Apostles give us a full History of the Conversion of *Myriads*, both of the *Jews* and *Gentiles* to the Christian Faith: And yet *St. Peter* and *St. Paul*, the great Instruments of their Conversion, say not one Word to engage Christians to believe that Christ was God of the same individual Essence with the Father, but think it sufficient to preach to them *Faith* in our *Lord Jesus Christ*, and to baptize them in the Name of the *Lord Jesus*, that they might be saved.

If then the Belief of the numerical Identity of God the Father and the Son in Essence, Will, and Actions, be necessary to Salvation, why was it not then as fully and expressly taught as it could be? Why were those great Apostles so silent in a thing so necessary? Was either *Sabellius*, or any one else, wiser than these Apostles, or more faithful in the Discharge of their Office? If not, whence comes this signal Difference betwixt that which the Apostles taught

taught then, and which other Men have taught since.

*Thirdly*, Observe that our blessed Lord himself doth plainly own himself to be our *Lord*, and *Master*; as in those Words, *Joh. xiii. 13. Ye call me Master, and Lord, and ye say well, for so I am.*

He is frequently stiled *Lord*, by his Disciples in their Discourses with him, and Addresses to him; as when they say, *Lord, teach us to pray. Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the Kingdom to Israel, &c.* But yet they never whilst he was on Earth, stiled him *God*, much less the same *individual* God with the Father: And which is more considerable, our blessed Lord himself always declined the owning himself to be *equal with the Father*.

For it is observable, that Christ being thrice accused of *Blasphemy*, for *making himself equal with God*, or for doing that which the Jews thought belonged to God alone to do, never directly answers, that he was *equal* to him. Whereas if he was sent to preach that Doctrine to the World, it was reasonable to expect he would have so done. But he still speaks in such a manner as one who waved that Assertion.

For when the Scribes enquire, *why doth this Man, &c., speak Blasphemy? Who can forgive Sins but one, that is God?* Mark ii. 7. He doth not answer (as some have done for him)



that this proved him to be *God*, but only saith, *The Son of Man hath Power on Earth to forgive* (the temporal Punishment of) *Sins*. Accordingly, v. 10. he ascribes to himself this Power, not as he was the Son of God, much less as being of the same individual Essence with the Father, but only as he was the *Son of Man*. And again, from these Words, *Joh. v. 17. My Father worketh hitherto*, [works of providential Care, Goodness, and Mercy, and these Charitable Actions] *I work also*; I say from his calling God his *Father* in so peculiar a manner as he did, (and had just Cause to do, had he been only miraculously conceived in the Virgins Womb, and upon that Account the *Son of God*, Luk. i. 35. *the Son of the most High*, v. 32.) they invidiously infer, v. 18. that he called God, Πατέρα ἰδίου, that is, *his own Father*, in such a proper Sense as made him equal to God, as a Son is to his Father.

Now to this Christ doth not answer, as might have been expected from one sent into the World to confirm that Doctrine, to wit, that he had Reason thus to call God his Father, as being of the same individual Essence with him; but his Answer contains many things seemingly inconsistent with that Doctrine. For on the contrary his Reply is, that he *could do nothing of himself*, (v. 19. and 30) that *the Father judgeth no Man, but hath committed all Judgment to the Son*, v. 22, and that *because he is the Son of Man*, v. 27. That  
be

he sought not his own Will, but the Will of his Father that sent him, *αὐτοῦ*, He was the Person that bore Witness of him, v. 37. and that he came not in his own, but in his Father's Name, v. 43. And lastly, that the Works which his Father had given him [Power] to do, bore Witness of him that the Father had sent him, v. 36. All which Sayings are plainly inconsistent with a strict Identity of Essence, of Will, and Actions, in God the Father and the Son. In Chap. x. they accuse him of *Blasphemy*, not for saying, v. 30. *I and the Father are one*; but (as Christ himself declares, v. 36) because he said, *I am the Son of God*. And yet being accused of Blasphemy, because *being a Man he made himself God*, he had Reason and Opportunity to have made another sort of Answer; whereas he only proves himself to be the Son of God,

*First*, Because the Father had *sanctified him, and sent him into the World*; whereas it is absurd to say, that he either *sanctified, or sent into the World* his own numerical Essence. And,

*Secondly*, Because *he did the Works of his Father*, v. 37. to wit, by Vertue of that Power which the Father had given him to do them, *Joh. v. 36*. And *by the Spirit of his Father dwelling in him*. For he did them by the *Spirit of God*, *Matth. xii. 28*. *By the Finger of God*, *Luk. xi. 20*.

*Fourthly*,



*Fourthly*, It is evident from the Scriptures both of the Old and New Testament, that mention is made of two *Lords*, one having absolute Dominion over all things in Heaven and Earth; according to these Words of our blessed Saviour, *I thank thee, O Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth*. Another who receiveth all his Dominion from this Father, and that is, our Lord Jesus Christ according to the Words immediately following: *All things are delivered to me of my Father*. This we learn, *First*, from these plain Words of the *Psalmist*, *The Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou on my Right Hand, until I make thine Enemies thy Footstool*, *Psal. cx. 1*. For that this Lord, is our Lord Jesus Christ, he himself expressly teacheth, by saying that *David in Spirit called him Lord*, *Mat. xxii. 43*. So do the Apostles, after they had received the Holy Ghost, also prove Christ's Resurrection and Ascension to Heaven, to sit at the Right Hand of God, from this very Place, *Acts ii. 34, 35*. So likewise doth *St. Paul* declare that God the Father *hath put all things under his Feet*; And that he *who put all things under his Feet* is the Father, to whom he must deliver up the Kingdom at the End of the World. And that when it is said, *All things are put under his Feet, it is manifest that he is excepted, that did put all things under him*, *1 Cor. xv. 24—28*. And again, he

## DISCOURSE I. 107

he proveth the Superiority of the Lord Jesus to the whole Angelical Order by this ; *To which of the Angels hath he said, sit thou on my Right Hand, till I make thine Enemies thy Footstool?* Heb. i. 13.

*Secondly*, This *derived Dominion* of the Son from the Father is plainly delivered to us by the Prophet *Daniel* in these Words : *I saw one like the Son of Man come with the Clouds of Heaven, and come to the Antient of Days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him Dominion, and Glory, and a Kingdom, that all People, Nations, and Languages should serve him,* Dan. vii. 13, 14. But,

*Thirdly*, This *derived Dominion* is so firmly established in Christ's own Words, that we need no farther Demonstration of it. For after his Resurrection he expressly saith to his Disciples, *All Power in Heaven and Earth is given to me*, Matth. xxviii. 18. Elsewhere he speaks to his Father thus ; *Thou hast given him Power over all Flesh, that he should give eternal Life to as many as thou hast given him,* Joh. xvii. 2. And *Joh. v. 22. For the Father judgeth no Man, but hath committed all Judgment to the Son; even to that Son whom he hath sent into the World :* For so it follows, *v. 23. He that honoureth not the Son, honoureth not the Father that sent him.* At his Temptation he expressly owns, that God the  
Father



Father is his God. For to the second Temptation of the Devil to throw himself down from the Pinnacle, he answers, this I must not do, *because it is written, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.* And to his third Temptation to worship him, he answers, this I must not do, because it is written, *Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

Now if these Words were rightly made use of by the Son of God, and were the one of them a Prohibition not to tempt the Lord *his God*, the other a Command to serve him only; here is the plainest Demonstration that the Son of God owned God the Father, as his Lord. To say that they were not rightly made use of by him, is to aver that he alledged two Passages impertinently, as being neither of them spoken of him, or applicable to him.

St. Paul plainly reacheth the same Doctrine by saying, *He hath given him to be Head over all things to the Church, which is his Body, and put all things under his Feet*, Eph. i. 22, 23. And again, *Phil ii. 9, 10, 11. Therefore God hath highly exalted him, and given him a Name which is above every Name, that at the Name of Jesus every Knee should bow, and every Tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father.* And,

*Lastly,*

## DISCOURSE I. 109

*Lastly, The Apostle saith, God hath in these last Days spoken to us by his Son, ὃν ἔθηκε κληρονόμον πάντων, whom he hath constituted Heir of all things, Heb. i. 12. As it were by Succession to his Father, who now judgeth no Man, but hath committed all Judgment unto the Son. And agreeable to this is the Doctrine of the whole Church Catholick, delivered to us in the Apostles Creed thus; I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord. Where saith the judicious Bishop \* Pearson, That the Son is not comprehended in the Father, is evident, not only out of the Original, or Occasion, but also from the very Letter of the Creed, which teacheth us to believe in one God the Father, and in his Son: For if the Son was included in the Father, then was the Son the Father of himself. As therefore when I say, I believe in the Son, I must necessarily understand the Son of that Father whom I mentioned in the first Article; So when I said, I believe in God the Father, I must as necessarily be understood of the Father of him whom I call his Son in the second Article.*

Now from all these Things, the Superiority of the Father to the Son, and the Subordination of the Son to the Father, are extremely evident. For, he that hath all things delivered

\* Creed p. 36. Edit. A.



*delivered* to him *from* the Father, he that hath his whole Dominion in Heaven and Earth, and his Power over all Flesh, to give them eternal Life, *derived* from, and *given* to him of his Father, must be subordinate to him from whom that Power is derived.

For seeing no numerical Essence can do an Action by another, if Christ be of the same numerical Essence with the Father, we cannot properly be said to have things from God, or to do things to God, *by* Christ. And yet we frequently read thus, *We have Peace with God* *Ag*, *By, or, Through our Lord Jesus Christ*, Rom. v. 1, 11. *To the only wise God be Glory*, *Ag*, *By our Lord Jesus Christ*, Rom. xvi. 27. *Thanks be to God which giveth us the Victory*, *Ag*, *Through our Lord Jesus Christ*, 1 Cor. xv. 57. *Such Hope have we to God by Christ*, 2 Cor. iii. 4. *We are filled with the Fruits of Righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ to the Glory of God the Father*, Phil. i. 11. *We give Thanks*, τῷ Θεῷ καὶ Πατρὶ, *to God*, even the Father, *by him*, Colos. iii. 17. This is sufficiently evident from the Apostles Discourse, 1 Cor. xv. from v. 24, to 29. where he represents Christ the Son of God as a Lord who had all things *put under him* by a superiour Lord, by saying, *When he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest, He is excepted which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be*  
subject

## DISCOURSE I.

III

subject to him that did put all things under him, that God may be all in all : And from these Words of my Text, where it is plainly said,

*First*, That all Christians know that there is but *one God*.

*Secondly*, That this one God is *the Father*. And,

*Thirdly*, That this God the Father is distinguished from our Lord Jesus Christ by this Character, that he is God,  $\epsilon\zeta\ \delta\epsilon$ , from whom *are all things*. But our Lord is only he  $\delta\iota\ \delta\epsilon$ , by whom *are all things*, and that God the Father, is the Christians one God, Christ their one Lord.

Hence Christ speaks thus for the Encouragement of Christians to suffer for his Sake. *To him that overcometh will I give to sit upon my Throne, even as I overcame, and am sat down with my Father on his Throne*, Rev. iii. 21. Where,

*First*, I observe that the *Throne of Christ* is plainly represented as *distinct from* the Throne of God the Father.

*Secondly*, He is said to be set down after his Victory upon his Father's Throne. Neither of which things can agree to one who is of the same numerical Essence with the Father. And v. 12. *Him that overcometh will I make a Pillar in the Temple of my God: And I will write upon him the Name of my God, and of the City of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which*



*which cometh down out of Heaven from my God. Now it is absurd to affirm, that one and the same God should so often call himself his God.*

If it be here objected, that 'tis sufficient that our Lord Jesus Christ is in these Epistles said to be *God*, to wit, *Rom. ix. 5.* And *Tim. iii. 16.* Concerning *Rom. ix. 5.* I have given a full Account elsewhere. And as to the Words in *Timothy*, *God was manifested in the Flesh*, 'tis plain that the Word, *God*, there, though it signifie one who was truly God, by having a true Dominion over all things in Heaven and Earth, imparted to him, and having all Perfections requisite to the Exercise of that Dominion, yet cannot it signify that self-existent God, whose Power is absolute and underived, not only because he cannot be said to be *justified in*, or by, *the Spirit*, (who, saith our Saviour, *should convince the World of Sin, because they believe not on me, and of Righteousness, because I go to (my) Father :*) But likewise because he is said to be *received up into Glory*.

DIS-



## DISCOURSE II.

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JOHN xiv. i.

*Te believe in God, believe also in me.*



OUR blessed Lord in the former Chapter is represented, as knowing the *Father had given all things into his Hands*, v. 3. That *he had committed all Judgment to the Son*, Joh. v. 22. And so *had all Power in Heaven and Earth* committed to him: Hence he speaks to his Disciples, who always believed in God, and trusted in him for a Deliverance in all Exigencies and Distresses, exhorting them now to believe in him also, as having all Authority and Power imparted to him by the Father, and being the very Person whom he (the Father) *had given to be Head over all things to the Church*, Eph. i. 22.



Here therefore we have evidently two distinct Persons represented as the Objects of our Faith and Trust; to wit, the Person here called God, *viz.* the supreme God, and Father of all things, and Lord of Heaven and Earth, in whom the Jews always trusted: The Second, our Lord Jesus Christ, invested with all Judgment, Power and Authority from the Father, whom the Jews never owned before, and in whom, the generality of them, after all his Miracles done in Confirmation of his Mission, would not believe. And this, or a like Distinction seems very evident, not only in the Epistles, but also in the Holy Gospels. *Viz.*

*First*, In these Words of Christ, *Joh. xii. 44. He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me.* And,

*Secondly*, Mark ix. 37, *Whosoever receiveth me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.* Where, *first*, observe that both these Texts speak not only of the Essence, but of the Person also of the Father and the Son, as is evident from those Pronouns, *me*, and *him*, that sent *me*. *Secondly*, it is also extremely evident, that they cannot both be interpreted so as to signify one and the same numerical Essence, seeing that would infer this absurd Sense: He that believeth in me, who am one and the same in Essence with the supreme God, believeth *not* in me who am the same with the supreme God, but in him who is the same with me,

## DISCOURSE II. 115

me, and that sent me. And, *Thirdly*, hence it would follow, that the supreme God sent the supreme God, that is, himself, into the World.

*Thirdly*, This seems plainly to follow from these Words, *Joh. iii. 16. God so loved the World, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting Life.* And again, *1 Joh. iv. 9, 10. In this was manifested the Love of God towards us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the World, that we might live through him. Herein is Love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the Propitiation for our Sins.* For *first*, the Love here mentioned, is manifestly the Love of God the Father. *Secondly*, This Love is manifested in sending not himself, but his *Son*, his *only begotten Son*, into the World. And *Thirdly*, This Son is sent to be the Propitiation for our Sins; that is, to make Atonement to God for them. Whereas were he the same with the Father, he must make an Atonement to himself.

*Thirdly*, This may farther be confirmed from many Passages in the 6th Chapter of *St. John*. For *first*, our Lord there saith, *This is the Work of God*, that is, that which is now required of you as most acceptable unto him, *that ye believe on him whom he hath sent, v. 29.* And throughout the whole Gospel, this is assigned as the End of all the Miracles he did, or God did by him, that they might be-



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*lieve that Jesus was the Son of God, and that believing they might have Life through his Name, Joh. xx. 31.*

Now according to Dr. *Waterland's* Assertion in his five first Queries, that wherever there is mention of the supreme God, as being *one*, and there being no other but him; the Son of God must be included, as being one and the same Supreme with him; it is impossible to believe in God the Father, and not to believe in that Son of God whom he hath sent into the World, because according to that Assertion, the Son of God must be included in all those Passages which speak of Faith in one supreme God, and it must be needless to require any Person to believe in him whom he had sent: Yea then all the Jews who believe in God the Father, must by the same Act believe also in the Son of God, and therefore could not truly be charged, as they continually are, for not believing in him whom God had sent. This also seems to be confirmed from these Words, *v. 46. No Man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father*; for to be *of God* is the same as to be *sent of God*, *v. 29. to come from God*, *v. 33. or to be the Son of God*, *v. 69.* It also appeareth from the preceeding Words, that the Words *God* and *Father*, are of the same Import; for to be *taught of God*, and to *learn of the Father*, is the same, *v. 45.* Now to be *of God*, or *from God*, cannot well signifie, to be

## DISCOURSE II. 117

be that very God *of*, and *from* whom he is ; nor can it be probable that the same God with the Father should say he had *seen the Father*, as Christ doth here ; and Chap. viii. 38. *I speak that which I have seen with my Father.* And this may farther be confirmed from those Words, v 38. *I came down from Heaven not to do mine own Will, but the Will of him that sent me.* For he that is of the same numerical Essence with the Father, must have the same *Will*, and do the same *Actions*, which the Father that sent him doth ; and therefore cannot be truly and properly said to come down from Heaven, not to do his own Will, but the Will of another.

*Fourthly*, This may be farther argued from these Words, *Joh. vii. 16. Jesus answered them, my Doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.* For he who is of the same Essence with the Father, cannot deny that Doctrine to be his, which is the Doctrine of him that sent him, provided that he that sent him be of the same Essence with him. He also saith unto the Jews, *I have told you the Truth, which I have heard from God*, chap. viii. v. 40. And can that signify the Truth which I have heard from my self ?

*Fifthly*, *Joh. viii. 17, 18.* We read thus : *It is written in your Law, that the Testimony of two Men is true ; I am one that bear Witness of my self, and the Father that sent me beareth Witness of me.* Now can one



and the same God, as the Father and Son are supposed to be, be two Witnesses? Or can he who is the same God with the Father say, I am one that bear Witness of my self, and the Father that sent me is *another* Witness?

*Sixthly*, This may be farther argued from these Words, *Joh. xi. 41, 42. Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me, and I knew that thou hearest me always.* For one and the same God can neither give thanks to himself, nor could others be induced by the Father's hearing of him, to believe that he had sent him, seeing one and the same Essence cannot send it self.

*Seventhly*, This also may be inferred from these Words, *Joh. xvi. 23. Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my Name, He will give it you.* And again, *v. 24. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my Name, Ask and ye shall receive, that your Joy may be full.* For in these Words, our Lord plainly represents himself, as an Advocate to God the Father, interceding with him for those Blessings, which were necessary to be conferred on his Disciples. So is he elsewhere represented, *1 John ii, 1, 2.* in these Words, *If we sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous: And he is the Propitiation for our Sins.* So also, *Rom. viii. 34.* where he is represented as one at the *Right Hand of God, making Intercession for us.* And *Heb. ix. 22.* He is said to have *entered into Heaven.*

## DISCOURSE II. 119

*ven it self, there to appear in the Presence of God for us. And again, Heb. vii. 25. Wherefore he is able to save them to the utmost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make Intercession for them.*

Now no individual, intelligent Being can properly say, I will ask another to do for us, what he must do himself, if it be done at all; nor can he be an Advocate to himself, or an Advocate with God the Father, so as to be the Propitiation for our Sins, as Jesus Christ the Righteous is, if he be the same with the Father, since he could never need an Atonement to render him propitious to himself. He cannot properly be said, to be at his own Right Hand, much less to be there making Intercession to God for us, seeing he himself must be that very God to whom he intercedes; nor can it be said that he is able to save to the utmost them that come to God by him, if he be the same God, to whom we come for Salvation, and not, as he himself avers, That Jesus to whom God had given Power over all Flesh, that he should give eternal Life, to as many as he had given him, Joh. xvii. 2. Nor Lastly, could he be represented as thus able to save, for this very Reason, because he ever lives to make Intercession for us, or is gone into Heaven to appear in the Presence of God for us.

*Eighthly,* This will appear with a more full and shining Evidence from the whole Prayer



of our blessed Lord to his Father, recorded in the 17th Chapter of St. *John*, there being scarce one Verse in it which affords not a sufficient Demonstration, that our Lord did not think himself to be of one and the same numerical Essence with the Father. I have already argued this from Verse the second, where our Lord owns the Power which he had to give eternal Life, to be *given* him from the Father: and from the third Verse, where he speaks to his Father thus, *This is Life eternal to know thee to be the only true God*. It follows also from v. 4. For he could not say, *I have finished the Work which thou gavest me to do*, had he been of the same numerical Essence with him, seeing the same numerical Essence can give nothing to it self to do. This follows from v. 5. where he speaks thus. *And now, O Father, glorifie thou me with thine own self, with the Glory which I had with thee before the World was*. For here observe

*First*, that Christ prays to be *glorified by the Father*, and therefore cannot be the same God with him, of whom he requests to be glorified.

*Secondly*, observe, that this Prayer plainly doth insinuate, that in his State of Humiliation he laid aside, or divested himself of this Glory; for otherwise he could not thus pray to the Father to receive it again. And,

*Thirdly*, observe that he expressly styles this Glory, *the Glory which he had with the Father before the Foundation of the World*: That

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is, as I conceive, the glorious State he was in with God the Father, before he came down from Heaven into the World. For by his leaving the World, and going to his Father, by his ascending again to his God and Father, *Joh. xx. 17*, he is in the New Testament said to be glorified. So *Joh. vii. 39*. *The Holy Ghost was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified.* And again, when Jesus was glorified, that is, exalted to the Right Hand of God, then remembered they that those things were written of him, *Joh. xii. 16*. And again, *Acts iii. 13*. *The God of our Fathers hath glorified his Son Jesus*, that is, *v. 21*. *he hath received him up into Heaven.* And *Acts ii. 23*. he is said to be exalted to the Right Hand of God, which in the *1 Tim. iii. 16*. is, his being received up into Glory: And *Acts i. 11*. his being taken up into Heaven. In fine, St. *John* declares, that Christ's Miracles were done that we might believe that Jesus was *the Christ the Son of God, and that believing we might have Life through his Name.*

This will be still more fully evident from the Words following, *v. 6*. viz. *I have manifested thy Name, unto the Men which thou gavest me out of the World; thine they were, and thou gavest them me, and they have kept thy Word.* For could one of the same numerical Essence with God the Father, and having all the same Perfections with him, say truly to  
the



the Father concerning those who were given to him, *thine they were*, since then they must be as much *his own* as the Father's, or that thou hast given them to me, who had the same original Right to them as the Father had, or that they have kept *thy* Word, rather than *mine*, seeing the Word that they kept must be the Word of the one and the same supreme God. And,

V. 7. He speaks thus of his Disciples, *Now they have known that all things which thou hast given me, are of thee*. Whereas 'tis certain, that nothing can be given to the supreme God, or by him, to the same God with himself. The 8th Verse runs thus, *I have given unto them the Words which thou gavest me, and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me*. Where again it is very evident, that the Words which Christ spake, were the Words which the Father had given him; whereas nothing can be given to the supreme God, and that the Apostles had received them as so given by the Father. Whereas had he been the supreme God, they must have received them as Words delivered by himself. 'Tis also added, that they have believed that thou [the Father] hast sent me. Whereas the same individual God cannot be sent by and from himself. In the 9th ver. He speaks thus, *I pray for them which thou hast given me, for they are thine*. For certain it is, that the supreme God could have nothing

## DISCOURSE II. 123

thing given him, nor could he say to his Father, that they who were thus given him were *thine*, rather than *mine*, were he the same one God with the Giver, seeing then the Gift must be equally the Act of both. The Words following, *All mine are thine, and thine are mine*, must bear this Sense, all *mine* are *thine* by original Right, and *thine* are *mine* by thy Donation, for so only can they accord with the preceeding and the following Words. v. 11. he says, *Holy Father, keep through thine own Name, those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one as we are.* And, v. 12. *those that thou gavest me, I have kept whilst I was in the World. And now I leave the World, and come to thee.* Where we have many Arguments against Dr. W---d's Scheme. For the supreme God could not say of his Disciples, they are those which *thou* hast given *me*. Nor, *Secondly*, could he say, *now I leave the World, and come to thee.* Nor, *Thirdly*, could he pray to the Father *to keep them in his own Name*, seeing they must be equally kept by *his* Name, or Power, who was equally the same God with the Father. And *Lastly*, this is confirmed from our Lord's frequent Prayer, that the Disciples might be *one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee.* For had he been of one numerical Essence, and the same in all Perfections with the Father, he could not have prayed that the Disciples should be thus *one with him.*

He



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He also adds, v. 24. *Father, I will that they also whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am, that they may behold the Glory which thou hast given me.* Where first again, the Disciples are stiled the Men which the Father had given him. And secondly, his Prayer for them is, that *they might behold the Glory which the Father had given him*, which therefore cannot be the Glory which he had by the same original Right with the Father, since that he must have by Nature, and not by Gift.

In fine, This Doctrine, that the Son of God is of the same numerical Essence with God the Father, is the very Doctrine of the old *Noetians*, and *Sabellians*, as I have fully proved in my Answer to Dr. *W—d*, Part II. from p. 63. to 73.

Seeing then Dr. *W.* and all that are of his Opinion, have made it an Article of their Faith, that Christ is the same supreme God, of the same numerical Essence with the Father, and therefore that they are both καὶ ταυτοῦσι τοῖς καὶ μονοῦσι τοῖς, and that the Son is not another God, but ἐν ᾧ ἑστία, one and the same God in Substance with the Father, and μία ὑπόστασις τριπλοῦσων τοῖς, one singular Essence in which are three Persons, He and They both must, by these Sayings of the Fathers, be proved to have embraced the *Sabellian* Doctrine.

Secondly, Seeing the *Noetians*, and *Sabellians*, were unanimously cast out of the Church,

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as impious, audacious, and blasphemous Hereticks, for maintaining these Doctrines, and were declared rather to be *Jews* than *Christians*, why should not Dr. *W.* and his Followers, lie under the same Condemnation?

*Thirdly*, Seeing it is declared that by their Doctrine they did, ἀναγεῖν, καὶ ἀθετεῖν τὴν ὑπαρξιν τοῦ υἱοῦ, *take away and destroy the Existence of the Son*, and neither did, nor could allow him to be, θεὸς ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ, God of God; And seeing that the Author of the *Modest Plea continued*, in his Answer to Dr. *W.* hath proved that he by his Doctrine, hath equally deprived the Son of his Existence, and left neither Essence, nor any Attributes of his own, he must be equally guilty of this Part of the *Sabellian* Doctrine. And,

*Lastly*, Seeing the *Sabellian* Doctrine was unanimously rejected by the whole Church of Christ, as a pernicious Heresy, why should not the Subscription of the *Sabellians* to the Articles and Doctrine of our Church lie under the same Condemnation with that of those, whom he so falsely and maliciously calls *Arians*, against their solemn Protestations to the contrary.

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## DISCOURSE III.

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*MARK* xii. 32. 34.

*And the Scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the Truth : For there is one God, and there is none other but he.*

*And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the Kingdom of God.*



FROM these Words it is, *first*, observable, that when the Scribe saith, there is but one God, his Meaning must be this, that there was only one who was the Creator of Heaven and Earth, and is so stiled throughout the Old and New Testament: For this was the only one God mentioned in the Words cited by our Saviour, as the God of the *Israelites*, who own'd no other God but the Creator of the World; and so the Scribe could speak of no other God. *Secondly*, observe, that

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that our Lord owns, that this Scribe, in saying this, answer'd *ὁ βεβαίως*, as a Man of a good and right Understanding in the Matter. Whereas had it been necessary to be believ'd, that he himself, and the Holy Ghost, were the same God, as to numerical Essence, with the Father, or the Sovereign Creator of all things, our Lord could not have given him this Testimony of his right Understanding in this Matter: Seeing his Faith, according to that Doctrine, must have been deficient in two Objects of it, as necessary to be believed, as was the Article of God the Father and Creator of all Things. And St. *James* (\*) writes to the same Jews thus, *Thou believest* *ὅτι θεὸς εἷς ἐστίν*, *that God is one, Thou dost well*, without giving us the least hint of a Distinction between the Godhead, and the Person. See also, *Gal. iii.* 20.

I therefore shall attempt to shew in what Sense it is a certain Truth, that there is but *one God*, and that there is no other but He. And consequentially in what Sense it is, and may be owned, that Jesus Christ is also God.

As, therefore, the Word, *God*, signifies that self-existent Being, who alone has all Perfections, and all Dominion, absolutely in, and of himself, original, underived, and independent on any, in this Sense, certain it is, that there is but one God alone. And that our Lord Je-  
sus

(\*) *James ii. 19.*



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Jesus Christ is not God, in this Sense, is, and must be own'd by all the Orthodox, who profess him to be the *Son of God, God of God*, proceeding from the Father by *Generation*, and *Communication* of Substance to him; and so not Self-existent, not ungenerated, nor underyived, and not having all his Excellencies from himself, and from no other, but only by *Derivation* of them from him, who is the Self-existent Being, or, as the Schools say, *Ens a se*, God of himself.

So that we seem all agreed in this, that there is but one *Self-existent* Being. And the Question now seems chiefly to be this, whether one and the same numerical Essence can be Self-existent, and not Self-existent, God of God, and yet God of none, having all his Perfections in, and of himself, and yet all derived from another? Or, in short, whether the Word, God, signifies three Persons in one Essence, or only one Person?

Now that God is *one*, εἰς μόνος, *one only*, all the wiser Heathens, constantly have owned.

And hence the Primitive Greek Fathers, *Justin M. Athenagoras, Theophilus Antiochenus*, and *Tatian*, in their Apologies to the Heathen Emperors, plead for the same Freedom for the Christians, which they had granted to the Philosophers, because they also did, (a) τὸ θεῖον εἰς μονάδα τατακλέειν, declare their  
God

(a) *Athenag.* p. 6.

## DISCOURSE III. 129

God to be one only. In this Sense did the *Jews* believe God to be only one, they owning no other Person to be God besides the Creator of all things; as fully appears, from the Dialogue of *Trypho* with *Justin M.* And *St. Paul* saith of all Christians, *We know that there is no other God but one*, 1 Cor. viii. 4. and v. 6. *that this one God, is God the Father.*

And that this was the constant Doctrine of all Christians even from the Beginning, will be fully proved from the concurrent Testimonies of almost all the Ante-Nicene Fathers. For *first*.

*Hermas* (a) speaks thus; first of all believe that there is one God, who created all things, consummated all things, and made all things out of nothing.

And this *Irenæus* (b) represents as, Dictamen Scripturæ, *The Dictate of the Scripture.*

*Clemens Romanus* (c) saith of the same one God, that, ‘He is, the only true God, as he  
‘ had learnt from the Mouth of Christ, speak-  
‘ ing to his Father thus, This is Life eternal  
‘ to know thee τὸν μόνον ἀληθινὸν Θεόν, to be  
‘ the only true God;’ to wit, in that Sense,  
K in

(a) Primum omnium crede, quod unus est Deus, qui omnia creavit, & consummavit, & ex nihilo omnia fecit. l. 2, p. 44. Mandat I.

(b) *Advers. Her.* l. 4, c. 37. p. 330.

(c) Μόνος ἀληθινὸς Θεός, &c, τὸν μόνον ἀληθινὸν Θεόν. *Clem. Rom.* Sect. 43.



# 130 DISCOURSE III.

in which Christ stiles himself to be the *true Bread* that came down from Heaven; and, to be the *true Vine*: that is, in the most excellent, and highest Sense, and being so originally, and from no other. And of this *Clemens, Irenæus*, (a) saith, that he did, from the Apostolical Tradition, declare one Omnipotent God, the Maker of Heaven and Earth, and the Former of Man.

And *Justin*, (b) in his *Cohortation to the Greeks*, asserts, 'That the Christian Religion ' had its Beginning from the Prophets, who ' taught that there was one God, besides ' whom there was no other.'

*Irenæus* (c) gives us the Apostolical Tradition of the Church in these Words, 'There ' is one Omnipotent God, the Maker of Heaven and Earth; ' and then adds, 'That the ' Church declar'd him to be the Father of ' our Lord Jesus Christ: ' and, saith he, '*Polycarp* taught these things, which he had ' learnt from the Apostles, and delivered to ' the Church as the only Truth.'

And

(a) Annunciare unum deum omnipotentem, factorem cæli & terræ, plasmatorem hominis, l. 3. Cap. 3.

(b) P. 34.

(c) Unum deum Omnipotentem, factorem Cæli & Terræ, hunc Patrem Domini Nostri Jesu Christi ab Ecclesiis annunciari. *Irenæus, Advers. Hæreses*. l. 3. c. 3. Et *Polycarpus*, inquit, hæc docuit semper quæ ab Apostolis didicerat, & quæ Ecclesiæ tradidit, & sola sunt vera, *ibid.*

### DISCOURSE III. 131

And *Clemens Alexandrinus* (a) saith, ' that  
' the chief of their Documents belonging to  
' eternal Life, is to know the eternal God,  
' the giver of eternal Things, the first, the  
' most high, the one, and only good God,  
' and afterwards to know the Greatness of our  
' Saviour after him. ' Which Words contain  
a plain, and full Descant upon Christ's own  
Words, *Joh. xvii. 3.*

*Tertullian* (b) argues thus, ' If God be not  
' one, he is no God. God therefore, can be  
' but only one, nor can he be the only one  
' God, unless he be the Greatest of all that  
' are Great ; nor can he be the Greatest, un-  
' less he has no Equal, nor can he be without  
' an Equal, if he be not the only God. How  
' therefore can there be two Greatest of all  
' that are Great, when the very Words them-  
' selves, Greatest of all that are Great, signify  
' not to have an Equal ; and, for as much as,  
' not to have an Equal, can agree but to one  
' only, there cannot be two Greatest of all  
K 2 ' that

(a) Maximum & quod est omnium Documentorum ad vi-  
tam æternam Spectantium caput, est, γινῶναι τὸν θεὸν αἰώνιον, καὶ δι-  
κῆσαι αἰώνιον, καὶ πατέρα, & ποιητὴν, καὶ ἡμᾶς, καὶ σωτὴρ τὸν θεόν, apud  
*Combes. p. 166. Sect. 6, 7, 8.* & scire, πάντα τὰ μέγιστα & σω-  
τὴρ καὶ ἡμῶν, *ibid.*

(b) Deus si non unus est, non est. Ergo & deus unicus erit,  
non aliter unicus nisi summum magnum; nec aliter summum  
magnum, nisi parem non habens; nec aliter parem non habens,  
nisi unicus fuerit. Duo ergo summa magna quomodo con-  
sistent, cum hoc sit summum magnum, par non habere; par  
autem, &c. *Tertul. l. 1. Advers. Marcionem, c. 3.*



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‘ that are Great, or two Gods, each of them  
‘ without an Equal.’

And *Novatian* (a) argues, almost in the  
same Words, saying, ‘ Whatsoever is God, is  
‘ one, and alone so; one to whom nothing  
‘ can be compared, seeing he hath no Peer;’  
and then adds, ‘ that he is that God, whom  
‘ our Lord truly pronounces, the *only good*  
‘ *God.*’

St. *Cyprian* (b) saith, ‘ That Christ hath made  
‘ a grand Compendium of all his Precepts,  
‘ that in the heavenly Discipline, the Memory  
‘ of the Learners might not be burthened, but  
‘ might quickly learn all that was necessary to  
‘ simple Faith, by saying, *This is Life eternal,*  
‘ *to know thee the only true God, and Jesus*  
‘ *Christ whom thou hast sent.*’

The six Bishops met at *Antioch*, declare this  
to be the Faith delivered from the Beginning  
by the Apostles, and maintain’d by the whole  
Catholick Church, that there is εἰς Θεὸς ἀγέν-  
νητος, καὶ ἀπαρχος, one God who is unbegotten,  
and without beginning, of whom the Son is  
begotten, the only begotten, the invisible I-  
mage,

(a) Quicquid Deus est, unum & solum esse necesse est,  
cui conferri nihil potest, dum parem non habet, — &  
quem solum merito bonum pronunciat Dominus, *Novat.*  
*Cap. 4.*

(b) Grande Compendium præceptorum suorum, ut in Dis-  
ciplina cælesti discentium memoria non laboraret, sed quod  
est simplici Fidei necessarium velocitè disceret, dicens, hoc  
est vita æterna, ut cognoscant te solum, & verum Deum, &  
quem misisti Jesum Christum, *Cyprian de Oratione Dominica;*  
P. 151.

## DISCOURSE III. 133

mage, and the First-born of the Creation. *Lab. Concil. Tom. 1. p. 845.*

*Origen* saith, that Θεὸς αὐτόθεος, καὶ ἀγέννητος, the Self-existent, and unbegotten God, is called ὁ Θεός, God with an Article, even that God whom Christ in his Prayer to the Father calls, the only true God. All others are called Θεός, God without an Article, being only made so, μετοχῇ τῆς ἐκείνου Θεότητος, by Participation of Divinity from him, who is the only true God. So are Magistrates, and Holy Angels called Gods in Scripture. But the First-begotten of all Creatures is so in a more eminent manner, as being ἀρχέτυπος εἶκων, the Archetypal Image of all other Images of God, who was in the Beginning with God, &c. in *Johan* p. 47. And,

*Arnobius* (a) saith, 'We all grant that there is one Father of all, who only is immortal, and unbegotten,' l. 2. p. 67. and page [the 95th, he enquires thus, 'is not he only unbegotten, and immortal, &c.'

*Lactantius* saith of God the Father, that he is, 'Deus summus, singularis, verus, unus,' the most High, the one true, and only God,' as I have proved in my *Disquisitiones*, p. 100, 101.

K 3

*Eusebius*

(a) Omnes concedimus unum esse rerum Patrem, immortalem, atque ingenitum solum, l. 2. p. 67. & p. 95. Nonne solus, ingenitus immortalis, & perpetuus solus est?



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*Eusebius* (a) is so copious upon this Subject, that it would be tedious to recite all his Words. The very Title of one of his Chapters runs thus ; that, ‘ The Church acknowledges but one God, though she owns Christ to be God of God.’ And in the 6th Chapter of the same Book he speaks thus, (b) ‘ to us Christians there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things, according to the Apostle, 1 Cor. viii. 4, 6.

Here we have *Hermas*, and *Clemens Romanus*, in the first Century ; *Polycarp*, *Justin Martyr*, *Irenæus*, and *Clemens Alexandrinus* in the second ; *Tertullian*, *Cyprian*, *Origen*, *Novatian*, and the six Bishops of *Antioch* in the third ; *Arnobius*, *Lactantius*, and *Eusebius* in the fourth ; all confirming this Tradition Apostolical, that there was but one supreme God alone, and that all the Churches taught that he is the Father of our Lord Jesus.

That in this Sense the Scripture doth assert, that there is but *one God*, and that *there is no other but he*, is evident from all those Places which speak of God, who is *solus Deus*, the only God, *solus Sapiens*, the only wise God, the *only Potentate*, the *only true God*, the *only good God*, and who is *God alone*.

For

(a) Ὅπως ἕνα Θεὸν ἡ Εκκλησία γνωρίζει. καὶ τοὺς τὸν Χριστὸν υἱὸν Θεοῦ ἐκ Θεοῦ εἶναι παραδεχομένη. *Eccles. Theol.* l. 1. c. 1.

(b) ἡμῶν τῶν τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἐξ ὃς τὰ πάντα, κατὰ τὸν ἀπόστολον, 1 Cor. viii. 4, 6.

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For that these Words, *solus*, εἰ μὴ εἰς, εἰς θεός, καὶ, ὃν ἐστὶν ἕτερον, are all exceptive Propositions excluding all other things from being God in the same Sense, is evident to common Sense, and hath been fully proved in the first Part of my Answer to Dr. *W——d*, from the Descants of the Fathers upon these Texts.

And it is here remarkable, that this *only true*, and *wise God*, and *only Potentate*, is distinguished from *Jesus Christ* in these very Places, in which these Words are mention'd. For Instance, This is said to *be Life eternal to believe that God* [the Father] is the *only true God*, and to believe in *Jesus Christ*, *whom he hath sent*. And in *Rom. xvi. 27*. 'tis said, *to the only wise God be Glory* through *Jesus Christ*.

*Secondly*, That our Lord *Jesus Christ*, though he be truly God, as having Dominion over all things in Heaven and Earth given to him by the Father, and Power over all Flesh deriv'd from him, yet is he not the same God as to numerical Essence with the Father, as is fully proved in the first Part of my Answer to Dr. *W——d*.

And this is evident, first, from the Nature of the thing it self, it being absurd to say that the same numerical Essence is Self-existent, and not Self-existent, is *Ens a se*, and yet *Ens ab alio*, hath all his Perfections *originally*, and *from none*, and yet hath all of them *derived* from another. With many other things



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of the like Nature. Whence arises this Demonstration ; He that hath essential Properties peculiar to himself, and incommunicable to the Son, and Holy Ghost, must have an Essence proper and peculiar to himself ; but the Father hath such an Essence, to wit, an Essence *Self-existent, deriv'd, ungenerated,* and proceeding *from none,* and *Independent* on any, for all its Excellencies ; and these Essential Properties, cannot be truly predicated of God the Son, who is neither Self-existent, nor ungenerated, and hath his Essence, and its Excellencies deriv'd to him from the Father ; and much less to the Holy Ghost, who proceedeth from both ; *Ergo,* they can't have the same peculiar, and numerical Essence with the Father : for where the Essential Properties are incommunicable, the Essence must be so. And,

*Secondly,* That this has been the constant Doctrine of the Primitive *Ante-Nicene* Fathers is exceeding evident from all the foregoing Testimonies, produced by me to this Effect, in this Discourse, and especially from those two, of *Justin M.* and *Novatian.* For,

*First,* *Justin Martyr* having confess'd that the Christians own'd but one God who is the Maker, and Orderer of all things, doth yet copiously endeavour to prove that our Lord Christ is ἄλλος, καὶ ἕτερος Θεός, &c. another, and distinct Person from God the Maker of all things, p. 296. and p. 274, and page

# DISCOURSE III. 137

275, And p. 276, he is said to be ἕτερος ἢ τὰ πάντα ποιήσαντι Θεῷ, another from the God that made all things. See also p. 277. And page 293, our Lord is said to be another ὁ Θεὸς ὃς ποιήσαντι τὸ πᾶν, from him that made all things.

*Secondly*, He is distinguish'd, by him, from the Creator of all things by these Marks, and Characters, that Christians are they, who place their Hope ἐπ' αὐτὸν, καὶ τὸν πέμψαντα αὐτὸν Παντοκράτορα, καὶ Ποιητὴν τῶν ὅλων Θεόν, in him, and in the Governour and Maker of all things, who sent him, p. 234, and p. 249. He is he, whom the Father had placed at *his own Right Hand*, ἐὼς ἂν θῇ τῆς ἐχθρῆς ὑποπόδιον τῶν ποδῶν αὐτοῦ, *till he had made his Enemies his Footstool*. And p. 261, he is said to be he, ὃς τῶν προχωρήσαντες ἔσμεν τῷ Θεῷ, *BY whom we come to God*. And p. 276, that he is that God, and Angel by whom ὁ Ποιητὴς τῶν ὅλων Θεός, *the God and Maker of all things, reveals his Will as he pleases*. And pag. 280. it is said, that by the Lord Jesus Christ the Father of all things is to judge the World. And p. 310. he perswades the Heathens to desert their *Demons*, and to believe ἐπὶ τὸν Παντοκράτορα Θεὸν δι' αὐτοῦ, *in the Omnipotent God BY him*. And p. 242, δι' αὐτοῦ ἀγαπῶμεν τὸν Πατέρα, by *him we love the Father of all things*. In all which Places, the Distinction between the *Father of all things*, and our Lord *Jesus Christ*, is so manifest, that it seems impossible



impossible to avoid the Strength of them, or to imagine they can both belong to one of the same numerical Essence with the Father of all things.

Concerning the Words of *Novatian*, (a) viz. ' We Christians, know, read, believe, and hold, that there is only one God, who made the Heaven and the Earth, for we neither know, nor can we know any other, seeing there is no other that is so,' I have fully discours'd in the second Part of my Answer to Dr. *W—d*, p. 75, 76, 77, 78, 79. Where I have fully shewn by four Arguments, that he put such a Distinction between God the Father, and the Son, as is wholly inconsistent with a numerical Identity of Essence with him.

*Eusebius* fully delivers the same Doctrine, as the receiv'd Doctrine of the whole Church, declaring, that though the Church own'd Christ to be God of God, yet they that hence fear'd, least we should own two Gods, ought to know, ὡς καὶ τῆς υἱῆς πρὸς ἡμῶν ὁμολογεῖται θεῶν, εἰς ἃν γένοιτο θεὸς μόνος, that though we own the Son to be God yet is there but one God alone, ἐκεῖν, ὁ μόνος ἀναρχος, καὶ ἀγέννητος, ὁ τὴν θεότητα οὐκείαν κτημένον, αὐτῷ τε τῷ υἱῷ ἔχειν, καὶ τοῖς ὡς δὲ εἶναι, γεγονὸς αἰτί, even

(a) Nos enim Christiani, & scimus & legimus, & credimus, & tenemus, unum esse Deum qui fecit cælum, pariter ac Terram, quoniam nec alterum novimus, aut nosse (cum nullus sit) poterimus, c. 30.

# DISCOURSE III. 139

• even he who is without beginning, and un-  
 • begotten, who hath his Divinity from him-  
 • self, and is the Cause of the Son's Being, and  
 • his having such a Being. By whom the Son  
 • confesses that he lives, *Joh. vi. 57.* and,  
 • who hath given to the Son, to have Life  
 • in himself, *Joh. v. 26.* and who therefore  
 • calls God his Father, and his God. And  
 • whom, *St. Paul* calls the Head of Christ,  
 • *Eph. i. 22.* And whom the Father hath  
 • given to be Head over all things to the  
 • Church. *μίας δὲ ἰσῆς ἀρχῆς τε, καὶ κεφαλῆς,*  
*πῶς ἂν γένοιτο θεοὶ δύο, ἔχε εἰς ἐκεῖνον μόνον, ὃ*  
*μηδένα ἀνώτερον, μὴδὲ ἑαυτῷ αἰτίον ἕτερον ἐπιγραφόμε-*  
*νον ; there being then but one Principle, and*  
*one Head, how can there be two Gods, and*  
*not only that one God, who hath no Superi-*  
*our, and no Cause of his Existence ? οἰκεῖον ἔ*  
*καὶ ἀναρχον, καὶ ἀγέννητον τῆς μοναρχικῆς ἐξουσίας*  
*τὴν θεότηα κεκλημένον, καὶ τῷ υἱῷ, τῆς ἑαυτοῦ θεο-*  
*τήτος τε, καὶ ζωῆς μελᾶδός, who has an unbegot-*  
*ten, and unoriginated Deity as his own Pec-*  
*liar, with a Monarchical Power ; and who*  
*is the Giver of Life, and Divinity to the*  
*Son, who made all things subject to him ;*  
*who sent him, commanded him, taught him,*  
*gave all things to him, glorified him, ex-*  
*alted him, declar'd him to be King over all*  
*things, gave him all Judgment, commanded*  
*us to obey him, commanded him to sit at his*  
*Right Hand ; to whom he prays, whom he*  
*obeys, and to whom he gives thanks, whom*  
*he*



### 140 DISCOURSE III.

*he taught us to believe to be the only true God*, Eccles. Theol. c. 11. p. 69, 70. Which Words declare, and confirm the Doctrine of the real Inferiority, and Subordination of the Son to the Father, as fully as any Words can do. The same he repeats as fully, 1. 2. c. 7. and c. 17. where he expressly denies that the Son is, *Deus super omnia*, or, God over all.

*Secondly*, Hence we may clearly discern the Falschood and Absurdity of that capital Assertion of Dr. *W——d*, that the Word *God*, both in the Old and New Testament, and particularly in 1 Cor. viii. 6. the Words, *God the Father*, do not exclude the Lord Jesus Christ from being the same one numerical God with him. For this Absurdity will be extremely visible in all those Places where God and his Son are mentioned together. Thus when 'tis said, *Joh. iii. 16. God so loved the World, that he gave his only begotten Son, That whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting Life*: And again, *God sent not his Son into the World to condemn the World, but that the World through him might be saved*, v. 17; the Sense of these Words must be this, God the Father, and the Son, sent his Son into the World for these Ends. So when 'tis said, *Rom. viii. 32, God spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all*; and again, *1 Joh. iv. 9. God sent his only begotten Son*  
into

### DISCOURSE III. 141

*into the World, that we might live* through him ; and again, v. 10. *God sent his Son into the World to be the Propitiation for our Sins* ; All these Words being spoke of God the *Father*, if that Phrase doth not exclude, but include the *Son*, they must admit of the same absurd Contradiction as before.

Moreover, the Absurdity of this Assertion is further evident from all those Prefaces, where the Apostle prays for *Grace and Peace*, from God the *Father*, and *our Lord Jesus Christ*. Whereas if Jesus Christ be included in the Phrase, *God the Father*, the Apostles meaning must be this, *Grace and Peace* be unto you, from *Jesus Christ*, included in God the Father ; and again, from the same Lord Jesus Christ. And when St. *John* saith, in the 2d Epistle, v. 3. *Grace be with you, Mercy and Peace from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ*, the Son of the Father ; if Christ be included in the Phrase, *God the Father*, he must be both Father and Son. And this seems also plainly to be the Consequence of all those numerous Places, where God is stiled, the *Father* of our Lord Jesus Christ, it being certain that he is the *Son* of the Father.

To his Argument in his five first Queries, from the Passages of *Isaiah*, it hath been truly answer'd, that the Texts of *Isaiah* do all of them most expressly speak of a Person, and not of a Being, as distinguished from a Person :  
Whence



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Whence it is rationally inferr'd, that if they include Christ at all, they must include his Person as well as his Essence; and so must bear this Sense, Is there any Person that is God but me? I know not any.

To which add, *Secondly*, that all these Texts of Scripture were originally directed to the *Jews*, and directed for their Instruction, and for the Preservation of them from the Idolatry of the Nations round about them; and therefore could not concern the Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, they never being prone to worship him, either as the one God with, or as another God from the Creator of all things; but only those Heathen Idols which were worshipped in the Nations round about them, or whether they were carried, and dispersed, as is exceeding evident from almost all the Arguments urged by that Prophet to deter them from the Worship of them.

Moreover, it is certain, that no *Jew* to whom these Scriptures were directed, ever conceiv'd that the Divinity of the Son of God was ever comprehended in them, or ever own'd him to be God, much less one and the same God, by Vertue of any of these Texts. Now can it rationally be thought, that That should be the true meaning of these Words, which no *Jew*, for whose sake they were indited, ever conceiv'd to be a Sense intended by them? or, that they should be written to  
declare

# DISCOURSE III: 143

declare that to Christians, which was entirely conceal'd from the Jews ?

The primitive Fathers, *Justin M. Athenagoras, Theophilus, Tatian, and Novatian*, all use these Texts of Dr. *W——d*, to prove that Christians own'd but one God, and could own no other, because there was no other: But not one of them ever dream'd with Dr. *W——d*, and much less hence inferr'd, that our Lord Jesus Christ was the only God included in those Texts. But notwithstanding this, that our Lord Jesus Christ is true God, as having true Dominion over all things in Heaven and Earth delivered to him from the Father, and, as having all Divine Excellencies which are necessary to enable him to exercise that Dominion whilst this World lasts, and at the close of the World to make manifest the secrets of all Hearts, and to render to every Man according as his Works shall be, has been fully prov'd in my last Thoughts, Sect. 4 and 5.



DIS-





## DISCOURSE IV.

### PROVERBS xxx. 6.

*Add thou not unto his Words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a Lyar.*



HAT the Words here mentioned respect the *Divine Oracles*, or Revelations of the Will of God, is evident from the preceeding Verse, which saith, *Every Word of God is pure.*

From being guilty of this Crime of adding to the pure Word of God, *Agar* disswadeth his Disciples by these two Arguments.

*First*, That this would render them guilty of a Lie or Falschood, in pretending to Divine Authority, when indeed they only spake the Words

## DISCOURSE IV. 145

Words of Human Wisdom ; and binding Doctrines upon the Faith and Consciences of others, upon pain of his Displeasure, which he hath never taught.

*Secondly*, He dissuades them from doing this, as being that which would render them obnoxious to the reproof and displeasure of that God, who hath always shewed how heinously he represents this great Presumption. For,

*First*, When God revealed his Law by *Moses* to the *Jews*, he took especial Care that nothing should be added by them to it, or diminished from it : The one being an Usurpation of Divine Authority by Men, and therefore virtual Idolatry, according to those Words, *Deut. xviii. 4. Ye shall do my Ordinances, and walk therein : I am the Lord your God :* The other being a detraction from Divine Authority, and so far Disobedience to the Divine Commands. Thus *Deut. iv. 2. Ye shall not add unto the Word that I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the Commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you.* And Chap. xii. 32. *What thing soever I command you, observe to do it : Thou shalt not add thereto ; nor diminish from it.* Whence it is evident, that in God's Estimation, both this Addition, and Diminution were repugnant to the Observation of God's Laws, or the doing whatsoever he commanded.

L

Hence,



Hence, when the Jews performed their Service to God, not according to the Prescripts of his Holy Law, but according to the Precepts of Men, *Isa. xxix. 13*, That is, in regard of Human Tradition, teaching, or by Authority maintaining and enjoining it, He pronounceth their whole Worship vain; as our Lord infers from these Words, *Mat. xv. 8, 9.* where speaking of the Traditions of the *Pharisees*, which they imposed upon the People as necessary to be observed, he saith, *Well did I-saias prophesie of you, saying, This People draweth nigh unto me with their Mouth, and honoureth me with their Lips, but their Heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, teaching for Doctrines the Commandments of Men.* And for this Crime God passeth this severe Threat against the Jews, *Forasmuch as their Fear towards me, is taught by the Precept of Men: therefore behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous Work amongst this People, even a marvellous Work and a Wonder; for the Wisdom of their Wise Men shall perish, and the Understanding of their prudent Men shall be hid, Isa. xxix. 13, 14.* When the same People hearkened to the false Prophets, which were then among them, God speaks of those false Prophets thus, *The Prophets prophesie Lies in my Name; I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake I unto them: They prophesie unto you a false Vision, and Divination, and*  
*a thing*

## DISCOURSE IV. 147

*a thing of nought, and the deceit of their Heart, Jer. xiv. 14. And Chap. xxvii. 15. They prophesie a Lie in my Name. chap. xxviii. 15. and made the People to trust in a Lie.* All which they certainly must do, who declare *that* necessary to be believed, which God in Scripture hath not declared to be so, and say, *God saith*, what he hath *not said*. When the same *Jews* were warping from the Precepts of God, requiring them to consult in difficult Cases his *Oracle by Urim, and Thummim*, and prone to go to *Wizards, Sooth-sayers, and Diviners*, amongst the Heathen, to enquire of them, God endeavours to reduce them to their Duty by these Words: *Should not a People seek unto their God? Should they go from the living to the dead? No, let them go to the Law and to the Testimony: If they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no Light in them,* Isa. viii. 20.

In fine, the *Prophet Malachi* being the last Prophet which God would send unto the *Jews*, till the Fore runner of their *Messias* came, concludes his Prophecie with this Memento, *Remember the Law of Moses my Servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the Statutes and Judgments.* That is, as Dr. *Pocock* truly Notes, 'The Prophet here informs them, that God would send them no more Prophets, till the Fore-runner of their *Messiah* came in the Power.



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‘ *and Spirit of Elijah*, and therefore doth  
 ‘ advise them to remember, and keep close  
 ‘ to all the Commandments delivered by *Moses*,  
 ‘ to all *Israel in Horeb*, as a sufficient  
 ‘ Director to them, and as the only way  
 ‘ whereby to prepare them for the receiving  
 ‘ the promised *Elijah*.

In the New Testament, to the desire of the rich Man, that *Abraham* would send one from the Dead to his five Brethren, to testify his sad Doom to them, that they might not come to that Place of Torment, he answers, *They have Moses and the Prophets, let them hear them*, and adds, *that if they heard not Moses and the Prophets neither would they be perswaded though one rose from the Dead*. Clearly declaring, that to hear *Moses* and the *Prophets* was abundantly sufficient to preserve Men from that Place of Torment. St. Paul in his second Epistle to *Timothy*, chap. iii. ver. 15. declares that *The Holy Scripture is able to make us wise unto Salvation*. For, saith he, *All Scripture is given by Inspiration of God, and is profitable for Doctrine*, (to teach us what we are to believe,) *for Reproof*, (of what we do amiss,) *for Correction*, (of our Errors and Mistakes,) *and Instruction*, (in what we ought to do,) *even so profitable that it renders the Man of God perfect, thoroughly furnished to all good Works*; that is, it renders either the Christian, or the Christian Teacher, fully instructed in all he is concerned to believe,

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lieve, do, or teach. In his first Epistle to the *Corinthians*, chap. xv. he argues thus, *That if Christ be not risen, we, the Apostles, are found false Witnesses of God, because we have testified of God, that he raised up Christ; whom he raised not up, if the Dead rise not.*

Now by parity of Reason, they also must be found false Witnesses of him, who testify that God hath clearly revealed, and so made necessary to be believed that Doctrine which he hath not revealed, and consequently not made necessary to be believed at all.

The Book of the *Revelations*, is styled, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him to shew unto his Servants; And it concludes in these severe Expressions, If any Man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the Plagues that are written in this Book. And if any Man shall take away from the Words of the Book of this Prophesie, God shall take away his part out of the Book of Life*, chap. xxii. 19, 20. That is, if any Man, after the Revelations made by this great Prophet, *this true and faithful Witness*, shall pretend to be a Prophet sent from God with any other Revelations than those which he had taught, God shall inflict upon him the Plagues contained in this Book. And it seems worthy to be observed, that this great Prophet sent from Heaven, declared that *all that came before him*, pretending to be the *Messias*, were *Thieves and Robbers*: And



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having finished his Propheſie, concludes with this ſevere Threat againſt thoſe who ſhould pretend to the ſame Office after. Now hence it evidently follows,

*First*, That nothing ought to be taught or impoſed upon others, as a Revelation of God, or an Article of Chriſtian Faith, or Rule of Manners, which is not clearly contained in the Holy Scripture. This being plainly to add unto the Word of God, and falſely to pretend to God's Authority, and conſequently vainly to worſhip him, teaching for Doctrines the Commandments of Men.

This is alſo the Doctrine of the Church of England. For in the 6th Article ſhe ſpeaks thus, *The Holy Scripture containeth all things neceſſary to Salvation: So that whatſoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any Man, that it ſhould be believed as an Article of Faith, or be thought requiſite, or neceſſary to Salvation*: And when ſhe ordains any Perſons to be Priests or Biſhops, ſhe requires them to profeſs their Perſwaſion, or Belief, *That the Holy Scriptures contain ſufficiently all Doctrine required of neceſſity to eternal Salvation through Faith in Jeſus Chriſt*. And to promiſe that they will teach nothing as required of neceſſity to eternal Salvation, but what they are perſwaded may be concluded and proved by the Holy Scriptures. In reference to the deciſions

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ons of Councils, she speaks thus; Article 21.  
*General Councils, forasmuch as they be an Assembly of Men, whereof all be not governed by the Spirit, and Word of God, they may err, and sometimes have erred even in things pertaining to God. Wherefore things ordained by them as necessary to Salvation, have neither Strength, nor Authority, unless it may be declared that they be taken out of the Holy Scriptures.*

And in reference to the Doctrines of the Church, commonly, but too often *falsely* called *Catholick*, she determines thus: Article 20.  
*that though the Church be a Witness, and a Keeper of Holy Writ, yet as it ought not to decree any thing against the same, so besides the same ought it not to enforce any thing to be believed for necessity of Salvation.*

Moreover the Fundamental Principle of the Protestant Religion is this, *That the Holy Scriptures contain a sufficient Clearness in things necessary to be believed, or done, in order to Salvation.*

Whence it clearly follows, that what is not with sufficient clearness contained in the Scripture, cannot be truly deem'd a necessary Article of Christian Faith, or a Doctrine necessary to be believed unto Salvation.

In our Discourses with the Doctors of the *Roman Communion*, we distinguish betwixt such Articles as we call *positive*, or *affirma-*



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*tive, or which we do assert to be delivered in that Scripture which is our Rule of Faith, (and that these are contained in Scripture we own our selves obliged to prove,) and those which we call negative, or such as we deny to be contained in our Rule of Faith ; As that the Pope is Christ's Vicar upon Earth : That the Host is transubstantiated into the real Body and Blood of Christ, united to his Divinity, and therefore is to be worshipped with Latria, that is, with the Worship only due to the great God of Heaven ; that it is to be offered, as a propitiatory Sacrifice for the Sins of the living or the dead : That Saints and Angels are to be worshipped by mental, or oral Prayers : That we are to bow down to, or worship, Images, or Crucifixes : That the Sacraments of the New Testament are Seven : That Prayers are to be offered for the Dead, to free them from the Pains of Purgatory : That Prayers are to be administered in Latin, though it be an unknown Tongue to the People : And lastly, That General Councils are infallible ; and that Priests do formally forgive Sins, and not declaratively only.*

Now as to these *negative Propositions*, we declare we are not obliged to prove from Scripture that it doth expressly deny them to be Articles of Faith, but think it sufficient, that we don't find them *contained* in our Rule of Faith : Because whatsoever is of Divine

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vine Revelation must be *contained* in these Scriptures, in which alone we have the Mind of God revealed to us. From whence it follows, that if we would act agreeably to our fundamental Principle, we al'o must reject all other pretended Articles of Christian Faith, which cannot be sufficiently proved to be contained in the Holy Scripture.

*Secondly*, Hence it is evident, that it is a very great and heinous Crime, to propound *that* as a Doctrine necessary to be *believed*, or a thing necessary to be *done* unto Salvation, which is not plainly taught in Scripture, or was not taught by Christ, or his Apostles: This being plainly to *teach for Doctrines the Commandments of Men*, and to accuse both Christ and his Apostles, as having not sufficiently performed their Office. For,

*First*, If they have not declared unto us all things necessary to be believed, and done, in order to Salvation, Christ cannot have fully declared to us the new Covenant of Grace of which he is the Mediator: Nor could the Apostles be *able Ministers of the New Testament*, seeing that Covenant must contain the Terms on which the Blessings promised in that Covenant might be obtained.

*Secondly*, To assert the contrary, is to cast these vile Reproaches upon *Christ* and his *Apostles*, that all that he, and they have done, in order to our Salvation, is not sufficient to procure the Salvation of one Christian. For  
if



if something which they have not declared, be necessary to the Salvation of a Christian, 'tis evident that all they have declared is not sufficient to that End.

*Thirdly,* If the Gospel be the Gospel of Christ, and be deservedly stiled, *the Gospel of Salvation*, Eph. i. 13, to preach that some other Terms, not contained in the Gospel of Christ, are necessary to Salvation, Tit. ii. 11, must be to preach *another Gospel*. If it be truly stiled, ἡ χάρις ἡ σωτηρία *the saving Grace of God*, and St. Paul hath truly declared it to be *the Power of God, through Faith, unto Salvation*, Rom, i. 16. to assert any thing as necessary to be believed, or done, in order to Salvation, which is not made so by the Gospel, is plainly to defeat the whole Design, and even the Title of the Gospel. It also in effect pronounceth Christ a *false Prophet*, because he hath so often promised, *That he that believeth and is baptized in his Name, and that he that believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting Life*, Mark xvi. 16. and John x. 28. It is really to deny that Christ was ever sent into the World to be our Saviour, or that he was exalted by his Father *to be a Prince and a Saviour*, or that he did fully perform the Work for which his Father sent him. 'Tis also to affirm, that the Apostles were false Witnesses, in saying, *That these things were written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, and that believing*

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*believing you might have life through his Name, and testifying, that the Gospel of Christ was the Power of God through Faith unto Salvation.* See this Proposition confirmed by many more Arguments, in my Sermon on Gal. i. 8.

*Thirdly,* Hence I infer, that they who pronounce those Men guilty of damnable Heresies, or of Heretical Doctrines repugnant to Salvation, which are not plainly declared to be such in Scripture, are guilty of very great Injustice, and Uncharitableness towards their Christian Brethren, and of usurping that Authority which belongs only to that God, *who alone hath the Power to save, and to destroy,* and to that Judge who is appointed to pass the Sentence of Absolution or Condemnation on us all. For, saith St James, *There is only one Lawgiver and [Kings] Judge* (as the Antients read that Place,) *who is able to save and to destroy;* and upon that Account, hath forbid all Christians to pass this decretory Sentence upon one another.

For seeing the making such Laws on which the State of Christ's Subjects depend, is evidently a Right inseparable from Regal Authority, and the peculiar Privilege of a Lawgiver; He that pretendeth to the Power of making such Laws, upon the Observation or Neglect of which the Salvation or Damnation of Christ's Subjects depends, must have a Regal Authority, different from that of Christ's:  
and



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And if Christ's Subjects lie under an Obligation of obeying his Laws, in order to their Salvation, (as they must do if he have any just Authority to impose upon them any such Terms of Salvation) they must be as much his Subjects, as the Subjects of Christ, since all Men must be equally subject to them whose Laws they are equally obliged to obey, and must have the Sentence of Absolution, or Damnation, passed upon them, not only by the Gospel of Christ, as St. *Paul* plainly teacheth, but by their Obedience, or Disobedience to the things taught as necessary to Salvation by these *Lawgivers*.

It is indeed by some pretended that this Authority may be concluded from these Words of St. *Peter*, *There shall be false Teachers among you who privily shall bring in damnable Heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them*, Upon these two Suppositions; *First*, That this Lord was our Saviour Jesus Christ; and, *Secondly*, That to deny his Divinity, or that he was the supreme God, is to deny the Lord that bought them. Whereas I think both these Suppositions to be evidently false. For,

*First*, God the Father is four Times called *ὁ Θεοπότης*, viz. \* in the New Testament, but that Name is never given to our Lord *elsewhere*, whence it is probable it belongs not to him here.

*Secondly*,

\* *Luk.* ii. 29. *Acts* iv. 24. 2 *Tim.* ii. 22. *Rev.* vi. 10.

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*Secondly*, Observe that this Epistle is written to the *Jews* of the dispersion, among whom were the false Teachers, and Unbelievers, who are said by St. Paul \* *in Words, to have professed to know God, but in Works to have denied him, being abominable and disobedient, and against whom † he pronounceth an Anathema* for subverting the Gospel of Christ, and making him to die in vain. And of whom he saith, ‡ that *their End shall be according to their Works*. Which makes these Words of St. Peter well agree to the false Teachers among them.

*Thirdly*, God is expressly said to have bought the *Jews* in these Words, *Deut. xxxii. 6. Do ye thus requite Jehovah, O People foolish and unwise? Is not he thy Father that hath bought thee? Hath not he made thee and established thee?* And *Exod. xv. 16. They are called the People which God hath purchased. And Isa. i. 3. The Ox knoweth him that bought him, but my People doth not know.*

*Secondly*, This Exposition is put beyond dispute by the parallel Words of *Jude* speaking of the same Persons, and saying, that they denied τὸν μόνον Δεσπότην Θεὸν καὶ Κύριον ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν *God the only Δεσπότης, or Sovereign, and also that they denied our Lord Jesus Christ,* v. 4.

*Thirdly,*

\* Titus i. 16.

† Gal. ii. 8.

‡ Philip. iii. 18, 19.



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*Thirdly*, This will be farther evident from the Description given of these false Teachers, both by St. *Peter* and St. *Jude*. For *first*, St. *Jude* saith of them, that they were οἱ πάλαι προγεγραμμένοι, *fore-ordained of old to this Condemnation*, v. 4. or Persons of whom it was prophesied even by *Enoch* before the Flood, v. 14, that God would thus condemn them. Whereas it would be ridiculous to say, that in these Words, *Enoch* prophesied of any that should deny the supreme Divinity of our Saviour. And, *Secondly*, He and St. *Peter* describes these Men as Persons guilty of such prodigious Villainies, and horrible Lasciviousness, as cannot without the greatest degree of Uncharitableness, be attributed to all who deny the supreme Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. For *these Men*, saith St. *Peter*, *walk after the Flesh, in the Lusts of Uncleanness, and despise Government: Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of Dignities*, v. 10. *That they have Eyes full of Adultery, and Uncleanness, that cannot cease from Sin, Hearts exercised with covetous Practices; cursed Children; following the way of Balaam, &c.* v. 14, 15. St. *Jude* gives still, if possible, a blacker Character of these Men, pronouncing them not only *ungodly Men, turning the Grace of God into Lasciviousness, but also that these filthy Dreamers defile the Flesh, as did the Sodomites. That they have gone in the way of Cain,*

Cain, and ran greedily after the Error of Baalam for reward, and perished in the Gain-saying of Core — That they found out their own Shame, That they walk after their own Lusts, — That they have Mens Persons in admiration because of Advantage, &c.

Secondly, There be two other Expositions of these Words, very agreeable to the Account the Antien's give us of the first Hereticks, that infested the Church, the Gnosticks, and Valentinians, &c. And,

First, the Valentinians, (a) declared that there was a *propater*, or unknown God, above the Creator of the World, whom Christ came to make known unto the World; and this Creator was only *ὑπερφυατος* *Καρπος*, *labis fructus*, the Fruit of one of their lesser *Æones*. And again, Basilides (b) saith, That the God of the Jews was only a principal Angel; and that Christ was sent to free Believers from the Power of the Maker of this World. Cerinthus (c) also maintained that the World was made not by the first God, but by a Virtue very much distant and separate from that Principality which is above all, and ignorant of him that is God over all. Cerdon (d) also taught, that he who was called God by the Law, and the Prophets, was not

(a) Irenæus lib. 1. cap. 16. p. 85. — Cap. 17. p. 88.

(b) Irenæus c. 23. p. 98.

(c) l. 1. c. 25. p. 102.

(d) Adver. Heres. l. 1. c. 28. p. 103.



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not the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for of him they were ignorant, who knew the Creator of the World; and that He was only Just, but the other Good. Marcion (a) most shamefully blasphemed him that was declared to be God by the Law and the Prophets, pronouncing him. *Malorum Factorem, The worker of Evil, &c.* And that Jesus came in the Days of Pontius Pilate, *ab eo qui est super mundi Fabricatorem Deum, dissolventem legem & Prophetas, & opera omnia ejus Dei qui mundum fecit, from that God who is above the Maker of the World, to dissolve the Law and the Prophets, and all the Works of that God that made the World.* Hence Justin (b) Martyr, and Irenæus (c) writing against these Hereticks, so often say that the Creator of the World is that God, *super quem, alius Deus non est, above whom there is no other God.* And probable it is that St. Jude for the same Reason saith, that these false Teachers should deny *μόνον θεοπτόν τεόν, the only Sovereign God.* And seeing these Hereticks were partly of Jewish Extract, and partly such as taught their Heresies in Pontus and Asia Minor, where the dispersion of the Jews, to whom Peter writes, resided, and who were guilty of all the vile Enormities here mentioned, as has been fully proved in the

Notes

(a) *Adver. Her.* l. 1. c. 29. p. 104.

(b) *Justin Dial. cum Tryph.* p. 275, 276.

(c) *Iren.* l. 1. c. 19.

## DISCOURSE IV. 161

Notes upon these Chapters, Hence doth St. Peter say, that they denied τὸν μόνον δεσπότην, *that Sovereign Lord that bought them.*

The *Second* Opinion is that of those who afterwards were called *Docetæ*, as *Simon Magus* (a) and his Disciples, who taught, ut Christus appareret hominibus, ut homo, cum non esset homo ; & passum in Judæa putatum cum non esset passus, *That Christ appeared to Men as Man, when he was not Man ; and was thought to suffer in Judæa, when he did not suffer.* Basilides (b) held also, *That Christ did not suffer, but that Simon the Cyrenian suffered in his stead.* Cerinthus (c) also held, *That Jesus only suffered, Christum autem esse impassibilem existentem spiritualem, but that Christ was impassible, as being a Spirit.* Marcion (d) also taught that *Christ seemed to be a Man, when he was not so, καὶ δοῦναι παθεῖν ἑδαιμῶς πεπονθότα, and to have seemed to suffer, when he did not suffer.* Seeing then St. John in his 2d Epistle, informs us, *That many Deceivers were gone out into the World, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the Flesh, adding, That he that doth so is a deceiver, and an Anti-Christ ; and Chap. iv, That many false Pro-*

(a) Irena. c. 20. p. 95. Col. 2, &c. Theod Heret. Fab. l. 1. c. 1. p. 192.

(b) Cap. 23. p. 98,

(c) L. 1. Cap. 25. p. 102.

(d) Theod. Heret. Fab. l. 1 c. 24. p. 210, 211.



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*phets are gone out into the World, and that by this we may know them, That he that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the Flesh, is of God, but he that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the Flesh, is not of God: and this is that Spirit of Anti-Christ, whereof ye have heard that it should come, and even now already is it in the World. And Chap. ii. 22, 23, He saith, Who is a Lyar but he who denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is Anti-Christ who denieth the Father and Son; whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father.*

Hence therefore it is evident, that in St. John's Opinion, these *false Prophets* and *Anti-Christ*s who denied that Jesus who came in the Flesh, did also consequentially deny the Father, by denying the Father's Testimony of the Son, according to those Words of the same Apostle, Chap. v. 10. *He that believeth not God hath made him a Lyar, because he believeth not the Record that God gave of his Son.* These therefore may be the false Teachers of whom St. Peter, and St. Jude speak, as of Persons who denied the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Did not the Character here given of these Persons confine these Words to the aforegoing Sense, it were easy to show how God the Father may be said in Scripture to have *bought* us. For seeing God spared not his Son, but gave him up to the Death for us all, Rom. viii.

## DISCOURSE IV. 163

viii. 32. *Seeing God so loved us, that he sent his Son into the World, to be the Propitiation for our Sins*; 1 Joh. iv. 10; And he procured this Propitiation, *by given up himself a λύτρον, a Price or Ransom for many*, Mat. xx. 28. ἀντὶ λύτρον, *a Ransom for all*, 1 Tim. ii. 6; And seeing his Blood was shed for our Redemption, *for we have Redemption through his Blood*, Col. i. 14, and *even eternal Redemption*, Heb. ix. 12, we may well be said to be bought by that God, who sent his Son into the World to purchase by his meritorious Passion, this Redemption for us. Hence the *Apostle* infers, that God having bought us with this Price, we are not our own but his; and therefore ought *to glorifie God in our Bodies, and in our Spirits which are Gods*. 1 Cor. vi. 20. As for the *second* Supposition, that to deny that Christ is the supreme God, is to deny the Lord that bought them: That this is manifestly false, hath been so fully proved in the preceeding Discourses, that 'tis needless to attempt to do it farther here.

For seeing there is only one supreme God, if our Lord Jesus be the same supreme God, he must be, at least as to his numerical Essence, God the Father. Whence follow these Absurdities, that he who commandeth, is the same God with him that obeyeth his Commands; and that the same God both commandeth and obeyeth himself. That Interpretation also absurdly supposeth, that the same

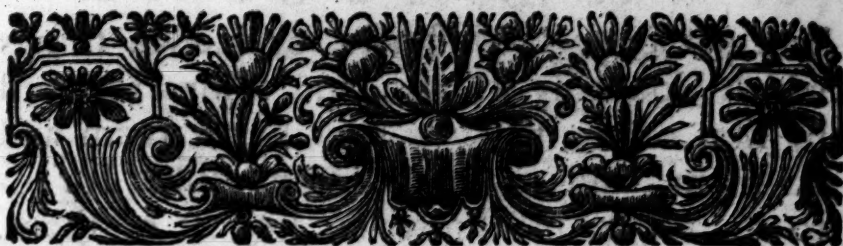


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Person *sends* himself, and is sent by himself; and this must be the meaning of those Words, *God sent his Son into the World*; That the same Person *giveth* Power, Authority, and Dominion to himself, and receiveth it from himself: And that this must be the meaning of those Words, *The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his Hands*, and that he hath appointed another to do what he himself must do, if he be one with him that doth it. For *God will certainly judge the Secrets of Men by Jesus Christ*, Rom. ii. vi. And he hath appointed a *Day, in which he will judge the World in Righteousness, by that Man whom he hath raised from the Dead*, Acts xvii. 31; To omit numerous Absurdities of the like Nature.



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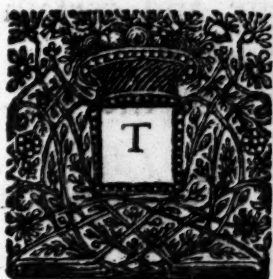


## DISCOURSE V.

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DEUT. xxix. 29.

*Secret Things belong unto the Lord our God  
but those things which are revealed belong  
unto us, and to our Children for ever, that  
we may do all the Words of this Law.*



H A T which we render *secret things*, is in the Hebrew *Nistaroth*, that is, *Mysteries*, or hidden things which God hath not revealed in his Word ; which I have elsewhere proved to be the constant Sense of the Word, *μυστήρια*, in the Holy Scriptures. Whence it demonstrably follows, that what is truly a Mystery, cannot be a Revelation made by God ; and that to require any Man to believe what we confess to be a Mystery, is to require him to believe, what God hath not revealed in his Word ; as is apparent from the Opposition here



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here put betwixt Myſteries, or hidden things which God only knows, and things revealed by him to us, that we may know them and do them, and which it is impoſſible for us to do, till we firſt know the Import of them, or what it is that God requires us to do. Whence, *Secondly*, obſerve, that all that God requires any Man to do, in order to the obtaining his Favour, or avoiding his Diſpleaſure, muſt be ſo plainly delivered by God in his Word, as that all Men concerned to do them, may certainly know the true Import of them. And, by parity of Reaſon, all that God requires any Man to believe in order to Salvation, or the avoiding his Diſpleaſure, muſt be ſo plainly delivered in his Holy Word, that all Men concerned to believe it, muſt be enabled by him to know the true and certain Meaning of it. This will be evident,

*Firſt*, From the Conſideration of the Wiſdom and Goodneſs of God.

*Secondly*, From the Nature of a Rule, which muſt be plain, and of a certain Senſe.

*Thirdly*, From the Conſideration of the Perſons to whom it is revealed, that they may believe it, and do it. And,

*Fourthly*, From the Conſideration of the End and Deſign of God in making this Revelation to Mankind, that it may be believed and practiſed by them.

*Firſt*, From the Conſideration of the Wiſdom and Goodneſs of God,

For

## DISCOURSE V. 167

For sure it was most agreeable to the infinite Goodness, and tender Mercies of God, to make every thing which he requires of us weak Men, obvious and clear. The Importance of the Duty implies its Certainty, which is not to be found in Phrases either doubtful or obscure. A just God will never require us to believe any Article, or obey any Precept, till we understand him, and know what he means. A Righteous God can expect nothing from us, but what he has given us the Means and Ability to perform. The Creator and Preserver of Mankind cannot take Delight in puzzling his Creatures with Darkness and Ambiguities, and in Points too where their Souls are in Danger. He is not a rigid Master, who would reap where he did not sow. This would be a cruel Mockery, unworthy of that Being, who has brought Life and Immortality to Light. I think it but Justice to the Goodness of God to affirm, that Belief, or Disbelief can neither be a Virtue, nor a Crime in any one, who has no Means in his Power of being informed; And a Righteous God will condemn no Man for not doing more than he was able to perform. The All-merciful Being doth never require of us that which after our most diligent Search, we cannot find he requires. It is not consistent with his Wisdom and Goodness to make that necessary, which he hath not made plain.



It is evident then that the All-wise God could not intend to perplex and confound weak Minds with Subtleties, for the Knowledge of which he has not given them suitable Qualifications.

*Secondly*, This will be farther evident from the Nature of a Rule.

For *First*, The true way to measure the essential Properties of this or that Means, is by considering its Sufficiency for this End. For whatsoever is necessary to make any Means sufficient for the obtaining its End, is to be reputed an essential Property of that Means, and nothing else. Now because the End we are speaking of, is the Conveyance of the Knowledge of Christ's Doctrine, to all those who are concerned to know it, in such a manner as they may be sufficiently certain and secure that it hath received no Change, or Corruption from what it was when it was first delivered, from hence it appears, that the Means to know this End, must have these two Properties: *First*, it must be sufficiently plain and intelligible. *Secondly*, it must be sufficiently certain to us; that is, such as we may be fully satisfied concerning it, that it hath received no Corruption or Alteration. If it have these two Conditions, it is sufficient for its End; but if it want either of them, it must necessarily fall short of its End. For if it be not plain and intelligible, it cannot convey this Doctrine to our Knowledge; if it be not certain, we cannot

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not be assured that that Doctrine which it brings down to us for the Doctrine of Christ, is really such. Hence it demonstratively follows, that a Rule which is not plain, is no Rule at all. Nor will God make a Law binding, or the Transgression of it a Sin, 'till we know what it is. A just and righteous Judge will condemn us only for neglecting to do that, for which he hath given us Means and Abilities to perform. An All-wise God cannot prescribe a Means in order to an End, which he knows will not be sufficient to produce that End. Add to this, *Thirdly*, That a perfect Rule of Faith and Manners must with sufficient Plainness and Certainty contain all things necessary to be believed, or done, in order to the End of our Faith, that is, *the Salvation of our Souls*, 1 Pet. i. 9. And agreeable to these things is that Enquiry of St. Paul, *If the Trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the Battle? So likewise you, except ye utter by the Tongue Words easy to be understood, εὐσημον λόγον, how shall it be known what is spoken? For ye shall speak unto the Air; that is, vain and unprofitable Words*, 1 Cor. xiv. 8, 9. And to deny this Perfection to the Holy Scripture, which is our only Rule of Faith, and the only Treasury of divine Revelations, is in Effect to say, that all that our Blessed Lord, and his inspired Apostles have taught us in the Holy Gospels and Epistles, is insufficient to make any Christian



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stian Wise unto Salvation ; it being certain that that which is deficient in any one thing necessary to be believed, or done, in order to our Salvation, cannot produce that End.

*Thirdly*, This will be still more evident, from the Consideration of the Persons to whom the Gospel was revealed, that they might believe it, and do it. For seeing when God Almighty condescends to make use of human Language, he intends to be understood, and consequently makes use of Words in their common Acceptation ; that when he designed to reveal his Will to Babes and Sucklings, (that is, to the Ignorant and Unlearned,) he cannot rationally be supposed to do it in obscure Expressions, or in dubious and uncertain Words ; that being to do it so, that they who were obliged to believe and do it, could not know certainly what they were either to believe or do, hence must it necessarily follow, that the Gospel must be plain and easy to be understood, in all things which can be the Duty of all Men to know, in order to Salvation : Seeing God, saith the Apostle, *willeth that all Men should be saved, and come to the Knowledge of the Truth* : 1 Tim. ii. 4. In order to that End, he must have given all Men sufficient Means to come to the Knowledge of that Salvation. Seeing our Saviour sent his Apostles to preach that Gospel unto all Creatures, *which is able to make them wise unto Salvation*, he must have required them to preach it

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it so, as that the Hearers of it may be made *wise unto Salvation*. Whence St. Paul in the Name of them all speaks thus, 2 Cor. iii. 12, *Seeing then we have such Hope* (of the Divine Assistance in Execution of this our Commission) *we use great plainness of Speech*. Whence he infers in the next Chapter, that *if the Gospel they preached was hid from any to whom it was preached, it was only hid from them whose Minds Satan the God of this World had blinded, lest the Light of the glorious Gospel should shine in upon them*; plainly insinuating that the Gospel was not hid from any one for want of Clearness in them that preached it, but only by Reason of that Blindness which Satan had wrought in them that heard it. And in the 14th Chapter of his first Epistle to the *Corinthians*, he speaketh to the Preachers of *Corinth*, delighting to speak in Tongues unknown in the Assemblies of their Fellow-Christians, thus, for their Correction and Reproof, that in this they acted like *Barbarians*, and as *Children in Understanding*; *that they speak unto the Air*; that they transgressed the great Rule which they ought always to observe in speaking, to wit, the doing it to the *Edification* of the Hearers; that unless they uttered by the Tongue *ἑυσημον λόγον*, *Words easy to be understood*, their Hearers could not know what was spoken; that he himself, unless he spake by Knowledge, or Revelation to them, could not profit them, and that,



that, therefore, in the Church he had *rather speak five Words with his Understanding*, so imployed, that by his Voice he might teach others, than *ten Thousand Words in an unknown Tongue*. Now is it reasonable to conceive that after these things said for the Re-proof of others, he himself in writing to the Churches should be guilty of the same Fault? That he should speak unto the Air, and so as not to profit, because his Trumpet gave an uncertain Sound? That he, in his Epistles, should write things not to be understood, and by which he might teach the Church, and so be a *Barbarian* to them that read them? And yet, if what he delivered in those Epistles concerning Matters necessary to be believed and done, were not indited by the Holy Spirit, and by him delivered with sufficient Clearness, both he himself, and that good Spirit which enabled him to write them, must be guilty of that very Crime, which they so sharply had condemned. Shall we then be guilty of such horrid Blasphemy, as to aver, that the Teachings of the All-wise God, designed to make Men wise unto Salvation, and to convey to them the Knowledge of the Truth requisite in order to that End, should be obnoxious to the same Faults, which the Apostle so sharply doth reprove in the *Corinthians*? What would this be but to mend the Word of God? to make it more useful than God has made it? to help the Holy Ghost?

and

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and to teach the Almighty how to express himself? And in Effect to say, that the Wisdom of the Holy Ghost hath so indited the Gospel of Salvation, as to need his coming a second Time with his infallible Assistance, to teach Men met in Councils, to declare it unto others in order to their Salvation? The vile Imputation which this Assertion charges upon the All-wise God, our great Lawgiver Jesus Christ, the Holy Ghost, and the inspired Apostles, is clearly demonstrated in my Sermon on these Words, *We use great Plainness of Speech*, &c. from p. 56. to p. 63.

This, *Fourthly*, may be demonstrated from the End and Design of God in making this Revelation to Mankind. For seeing an All-wise and All-powerful God cannot fail in accomplishing the End which he designeth to obtain; and seeing it is also certain, that the End of God in speaking to Men what he conceiveth necessary to be believed, or done, in order to their Salvation, cannot be obtained by speaking to them these things obscurely, and ambiguously; Hence it is certain, that God cannot be supposed in Matters of so great Importance, to speak thus to those whom he designs to teach these things; since that End cannot certainly be obtained by speaking those things obscurely and ambiguously, but only by doing this plainly, and in Words easy to be understood, and of a certain Sense. Seeing then every wise Agent pursues his End by  
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the most proper and effectual Means ; and writing plainly, and not obscurely, is the most proper Means to instruct Men by Writing ; hence it follows, that the Apostles must have used this Means of instructing in their Writings, or else they cannot be esteemed wise Agents. The contrary Supposition casts a vile Imputation both on that Blessed Jesus, who is the Author and Finisher of our Faith, and upon that Holy Spirit, by which the Scriptures were endited. For, *first*, If our great Lawgiver, only taught by his Apostles those necessary things obscurely in the Scriptures, which are delivered as his Laws to the Church, and so were continually received by it, he acted so, as no wise Lawgiver ever did, or thought fit to do. For do any of them make Laws, in Matters necessary to be observed by their Subjects, so obscurely as that they shall not be obliged to obey them 'till they are interpreted by another Law, or another Assembly ? And shall he who is stiled the Wisdom of the Father, be supposed to do what no wise Lawgiver would chuse to do ? *Secondly*, If the good Spirit hath so obscurely delivered his Mind in Scripture, that they who are concerned to do it, cannot know sufficiently things necessary to be believed, and done, contained in it, without an infallible Interpreter, he must have writ this Book so, as no understanding Christian ever writ any thing of the like Nature. For did ever any  
wise

wise Christian write obscurely what he thought needful to be known by them whom he designed to instruct? Doth any good practical Discourse want an infallible Interpreter? Or any System of the Principles of Christian Faith? Or do we not condemn in others the writing in this Style in Matters of this Nature? And shall we lay that to the Charge of the good Spirit of God, which we condemn in one another? Shall we say, that he inspired them to write to others, that *they might know the certainty of those things, in which they had been instructed*, Luk. i. 4, and that *they might believe them, and believing them, might have Life*, Joh. xx. 31, and yet contrived they should be so written, as that they could not know the things they writ with any certainty, or obtain Life by the Perusal of them?

From what hath been discoursed, these Corollaries do naturally and plainly follow.

*First*, That what is not contained in Scripture in such Certainty and Plainness, as that all concerned to believe and know them, in order to the obtaining their Salvation, may not from Scripture be sufficiently assured, that they are plainly and certainly delivered there as necessary Articles of Christian Faith and Duty, cannot be a necessary Article of Christian Faith; it being proved,

*First,*



*First*, To be contrary to the Wisdom and Goodness of God, to require that to be necessary to be believed, or done, in order to Salvation, which he hath not with sufficient Plainness and Certainty declared in Scripture to be thus necessary. For as Mr. *Chillingworth* truly saith, Chap. ii. Sect. 104. ‘No-  
 ‘ thing is necessary to be believed, but what  
 ‘ is plainly revealed: for to say that when a  
 ‘ Place of Scripture, by Reason of ambigu-  
 ‘ ous Terms, lies indifferent betwixt divers  
 ‘ Senses, whereof one is true, the other false,  
 ‘ that God obliges Men under Pain of Dam-  
 ‘ nation, not to mistake through Error, and  
 ‘ human Frailty, is to make God a Tyrant,  
 ‘ and to say that he requires us certainly to  
 ‘ attain that End, for the attaining whereof  
 ‘ we have no certain Means.’

*Secondly*, 'Tis as plainly contrary to the essential Properties of a Rule of Faith, they being these two, that it be plain, and certainly may be understood. And,

*Thirdly*, It is as clearly opposite to the Declaration of God in Scripture, that all things there necessary to Salvation, are delivered to all concerned, that they may believe them, and do them. For God being *willing that all Men should be saved, and come to the Knowledge of the Truth*, must be as willing to impart to them the Knowledge of those things which are necessary to be known in order to their Salvation: Christ being the com-  
 mon

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mon Saviour of all Men, he must have provided Means sufficient for the Salvation of all them to whom his Gospel was preached: He having given to his Apostles Commission to preach his Gospel to every Creature capable of hearing and embracing it; and having said, That they who did believe it should be saved, and he that believed it not should be damned, must have obliged, and assisted them so to preach it, that every one that heard it might fully learn all that was necessary to be by them believed to Salvation: Since otherwise the Promise of their Salvation must depend on a Condition impossible to be known, and Unbelievers must be damned for what they could not know to be [their Duty to believe. And,

*Lastly*, This is proved repugnant to the Design of God the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, in revealing to us the things necessary to be believed and done for our Salvation. For seeing this End can only be obtained by revealing those things so, as that it may plainly and certainly be known by all who are concerned to believe and do them; and seeing every wise Agent, (and much more an All-wise God) must use the Means most effectual to produce their designed End, that is, must deliver them with sufficient Certainty and Plainness, it follows, that what these have delivered, must be delivered so as that all Persons concerned to believe and do them,

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may



may plainly and certainly know the true Sense and Meaning of them. And hence the excellent Bishop *Stillingfleet*, (Answer to *N. O.*) after a long Discourse of the Means whereby to know the Sense of Scripture without an infallible Guide, having confirmed this Doctrine by many solid Arguments, p. 99, 100, concludes thus; ‘ To say that though the Apostles and Evangelists did deliver the Mind of God to the World in their Writings, in order to the Salvation of Mankind; although they were inspired by an infinite Wisdom to that End; although all things simply necessary to Salvation are contained in their Writings; although a Person used his sincere Endeavour by all moral Helps, and the Divine Grace assisting him to find out in these Writings the Things necessary to Salvation, yet after all he cannot certainly understand the Meaning of them, to me appears so absurd and monstrous a Doctrine, so contrary to the Honour of the Scriptures, and the Design of Christianity, that if I had a Mind to disparage it, I would begin with this, and end with Transubstantiation.’

*Secondly*, Hence also it demonstratively follows, that how confidently soever some Men may deliver several Propositions as necessary to be believed in Order to Salvation, if they cannot prove them plainly and certainly to be revealed in Holy Scripture, they must be plainly Guilty of adding to the Word of God, and making

## DISCOURSE V. 179

making that necessary to Salvation, which our one Lawgiver never made so.

In fine, That this is the avowed Doctrine of the Church of *England* is evident from her sixth Article, which saith, 'That the Scripture  
' containeth all things necessary to Salvation,  
' so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor  
' can be proved thereby, is not to be required  
' of any Man, that it should be believed as  
' an Article of Faith, or be thought requi-  
' site, or necessary to Salvation.' And also from her 20th Article, which declares, That though *the Church be a Witness, and Keeper of Holy Writ, yet ought it not to decree any thing against the same, or inforce any thing besides the same to be believed for Necessity of Salvation.* And from the 21st, which adds, That *things ordained by general Councils, as necessary to Salvation, have neither Strength, nor Authority, unless they can be proved from the Scriptures.* And in her Form of Ordination of Bishops and Priests, she requires them to profess, they are *perswaded that the Holy Scriptures contain sufficiently all Doctrine required of Necessity for eternal Salvation through Faith in Christ, and that they are determined out of the same Scriptures, to teach the People committed to their Charge, and to teach nothing, as required of Necessity to Salvation, but that which they shall be perswaded may be contained in, and proved by the Scriptures.* And in her Office  
for



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for the 17th of *November*, she requires all her Members to make of especial Profession this one Article, that Christ hath so abundantly taught us all Religion, and Works in the written Word, that we need not believe, or do any thing, but only that which is there taught us. And in her first Homily on this Subject, she teacheth all her Children, that in the Holy Scripture is fully contained what we ought to do, and what to eschew; what to believe and love, and to expect at God's Hand: That from those Books we may learn to know God's Will and Pleasure, as much as for this present Life is convenient: That there is nothing spoke in dark Mysteries in one Place, but the same thing is more familiarly, and plainly taught, to the Capacity both of the learned and unlearned; in another, and those things in Scripture which are plain to understand, and necessary for Salvation, every Mans Duty is to learn them. *Hom. 2.*

From all which Passages it appears, that it hath been the constant Doctrine of the Church of *England*,

*First*, That Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to be believed or done, in order to Salvation.

*Secondly*, That what is not read there, nor may be proved thence, must not by any Council, Church, or Person, be required as a Doctrine necessary to be believed, or a thing necessary to be done for Salvation.

*Thirdly*,

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*Thirdly*, That those things which are necessary to Salvation to be believed or done, are so plain in Scripture, that it is every Man's Duty to learn them thence ; and that we may learn them fully, plentifully, and abundantly from the Scriptures, may prove them by them, and may shew that they are taken from the Holy Scriptures. Which it is certain we could not do, unless they were contained in the Scriptures with sufficient Evidence. Hence it is evident, what the excellent Bishop of *Salisbury* truly saith, That it is ' a Scandal to the ' Church of *England* to suppose that it hath ' any *peculiar* Doctrines, considered as the ' Church of *England*, ' she having so expressly declared that she knows no other Rule but the Gospel, and always appealing to that for the Truth of any thing taught by her, and expressly requiring all in her Communion, to take the Scriptures for their Rule of Faith and Practice ; and that consequently the certain Truth of any Doctrine is not put by our reformed Church upon its being the Doctrine, or the peculiar Doctrine of the Church, but of the Scriptures.

I conclude in the Words of the Author of a Letter to Dr. *W——d*, p. 16.

I have the greatest Deference for the Doctrines of the Church ; but then I must suppose that the Church designs to be understood, for otherwise her Articles of Faith, will not be really Doctrines, but Words only. And

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as for our own Church of *England*, I can be very confident that she never once intended to bind any of her Members to Impossibilities, or expected to have her Articles understood in any other than a Scripture Sense; and consequently not to pin down Men to the *Athanasian* Sense, farther than it may be made intelligible, and consistent with the true Sense of Scripture.

F I N I S.

